

**Comparative Politics
Field of Study Exam Instructions & Reading List**

updated May 2023

Instructions for the Comparative politics Field of study Examination

I. Structure of Comparative Politics FoS examination

The Comparative Politics FoS examination has three sections. Each section will have a number of questions that the student may choose from. Students will be expected to answer one question per section in a three-hour period.

Section 1. Concepts, Methods, and Theories: Section 1 will include questions on general theoretical and methodological problems.

Section 2. Themes in Comparative Politics: Section 2 will include questions on specific thematic issues in the sub-field.

For students taking the Comparative FoS Exam in their Primary Field Only:

Section 3. Area of Dissertation Research (Primary Field Only): Section 3 will consist of a specific topic related to the anticipated area of doctoral research, which may include a regional specialization. This specific topic will be selected in consultation with the Supervisor. Appropriate reading lists for this section will be developed with the Supervisor.

For students taking the Comparative FoS Exam in their Secondary Field Only:

Section 3. Thematic Specialization (Secondary Field Only): Section 3 will include a thematic specialization such as: political parties, civil-military relations, democratization, political institutions, etc. If a student chooses to specialize on one of the themes already listed in the Comparative Politics Reading List (e.g., ideas, norms, and culture; or modernization and development), he or she will be expected to master it in more depth than what the reading list contains.

II. Recommended preparatory course work

As preparation for the Comparative Politics FoS examination, the Comparative Politics Field Caucus recommends the following courses:

POLI 671: The material for Sections 1 and 2 will be related to the items in this reading list and to the material covered in POLI 671.

POLI 673: The material for Sections 1 and 2 will be related to the items in this reading list and to the material covered in POLI 673.

III. Additional instructions for the Comparative Politics FoS Examination

The student's Supervisor will be responsible for drafting a reading list for the particular specialization, in consultation with the members of the caucus and with the student, if one is not already available.

Reading list for the Comparative politics Field of study Examination

GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS

- Binder, Sarah A., R.A.W. Rhodes, and Bert A. Rockman, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* (Oxford University Press, 2006)
- Boix, Carles and Susan Stokes, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (OUP, 2007).
- Munck, Gerardo and Richard Snyder, eds. *Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics* (Johns Hopkins, 2007).

SECTION 1. CONCEPTS, METHODS, AND THEORIES

A. Concepts, methods, and research design

- Adcock, Robert and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95(3): 529-546.
- Bittner, Amanda and Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant. 2017. Sex isn't Gender: Reforming Concepts and Measurements in the Study of Public Opinion. *Political Behavior* 39: 1019-1041.
- Brady, Henry, and David Collier, eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), pp. 1-200.
- Collier, David. 2011. Understanding Process Tracing." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44: 823-830.
- Collier, David and James E. Mahon, Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis, *American Political Science Review* 87:4 (December 1, 1993), pp. 845-855.
- Collier, David and James Mahoney. 1996. Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research. *World Politics* 49: 56-91.
- Collier, David, and Steven Levitsky, "Democracy: Conceptual hierarchies in comparative research," in David Collier and John Gerring, eds. *Concepts and Method in Social Science: The Tradition of Giovanni Sartori* (Routledge, 2009), Chapter 10, pp. 269-288.
- Geddes, Barbara. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003).
- George, Alexander and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, (MIT Press, 2004).
- Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2011. Time will Tell? Temporality and the Analysis of Causal Mechanisms. *Comparative Political Studies* 44 (9):1267-1297.
- Hall, Peter A. "Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Politics," *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, edited by James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (eds), Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 373-404.
- King, Gary, Christopher J. L. Murray, Joshua A. Solomon, & Ajay Tandon. 2004. Enhancing Validity and Cross-Cultural Comparability of Measurement in Survey Research. *American Political Science Review* 98: 191-207.

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry*. (Especially chapters 1 and 4), (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1993)
- Lijphart, Arendt. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65(1971): 682–693.
- Mahoney, James. "Strategies of Causal Inference in Small-N Research," in *Sociological Methods and Research* 28, no. 4 (May 2000): 387–424.
- Mahoney, James. "Nominal, Ordinal, and Narrative Appraisal in Macro-Causal Analysis," in *American Journal of Sociology* 104, no. 3 (January 1999): 1154–1196.
- Mudde, Cas and Cristobal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2018. Studying Populism in Comparative Perspective. *Comparative Political Studies* 51 (13): 1667-1693.
- Munck, Gerardo. "Canons of Research Design in Qualitative Analysis," in *Studies in Comparative Institutional Development* 33: 18–45.
- Sartori, Giovanni. Concept misinformation in comparative politics, *The American Political Science Review* 64:4 (Dec 1970), pp. 1033–1053.
- Shapiro, Ian, Rogers Smith and Tarek Masoud, eds., *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, (Cambridge, 2004).
- Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith, eds. *Rethinking Comparison: Innovative Methods for Qualitative Political Inquiry* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).
- Stauffer, Katelyn E. and Diana Z. O'Brien. 2018. Quantitative Methods and Feminist Political Science. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia*
<https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-210>

B. Theories and approaches

- Blais, André. 2000. *To Vote or Not Vote: The Merits and Limits of Rational Choice Theory*. University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Green, Donald and Ian Shapiro, *Pathologies of Rational Choice: A Critique of Applications in Political Science* (Yale University Press, 1996), pp. 13–46.
- Hall, Peter A. and Rosemary Taylor, "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalism," *Political Studies*, Vol. 44, 1996, pp. 936-957.
- Helmke, Gretchen and Steven Levitsky, "Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda," *Perspectives on Politics* vol. 2, no. 4, 2004. Pp. 725-740.
- Immergut, Ellen M. "The Theoretical Core of the New Institutionalism," *Politics & Society* 26, no. 1 (March 1998): 5–34.
- Kohli, Atul, et al., "The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium." *World Politics*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (1995), pp. 1-49
- Levi, Margaret. 2006. Why we Need a New Theory of Government. *Perspectives on Politics* 4 (10): 5–19.
- Lichback, Mark, and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds.), *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* Second Edition (Cambridge University Press, 2009).
- Mahoney, James and Kathleen Thelen. 2009. *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power*. Cambridge University Press.
- March, James G., and Johan P. Olsen. 1996 Institutional Perspectives on Political Institutions. *Governance*. 9 (3): 247–64.
- Olson, Mancur. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*, (Cambridge, Mass., and London: Harvard University Press, 1965).

- Ostrom, Elinor. A Behavioral Approach to the Rational Choice Theory of Collective Action, *American Political Science Review* 92, no. 1 (March 1998): 1–22.
- Pepinsky, Thomas B., “The Return of the Single-Country Study,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 22 (May 2019), pp. 187–203
- Pierson, Paul. Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics, in *American Political Science Review* 94, no. 2 (June 2000): 251–67
- Tsebelis, George, “Veto Players and Institutional Analysis,” in *Governance* 13 (4): 441–74.

SECTION 2. THEMES IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

A. States and regimes

- Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (Crown Business, 2012).
- Bjørnskov, Christian and Martin Rode. 2019. Regime types and regime change: A new dataset on democracy, coups, and political institutions. *Review of International Organizations*
- Blaydes, Lisa. 2017. State-building in the Middle East. *Annual Review of Political Science*
- Boucoyannis, Deborah, *Kings as Judges: Power, Justice and the Origins of Parliaments* (Cambridge, 2021).
- Brinks, Daniel, Steven Levitsky and Maria Victoria Murillo, “The Political Origins of Institutional Weakness,” in Brinks, Levitsky and Murillo, eds. *The Politics of Institutional Weakness in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), Ch. 1
- Bunce, Valerie. 1999. *Subversive Institutions: The design and destruction of socialism and the state*. Cambridge University Press.
- Centeno, Miguel. 1997. Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Latin America. *American Journal of Sociology* 102 (6): 2007, pp 1565–1605.
- Cheibub, José Antonio, Jennifer Gandhi, and James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited. *Public Choice* 143: 67–101.
- Collier, David ed. *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America* (Princeton, 1979), Chapter 1: “Overview of the Bureaucratic Authoritarian Model,” pp. 19–32.
- Dahl, Robert. *Democracy and its Critics* (Yale, 1989).
- Ertman, Thomas. *Birth of the Leviathan* (Cambridge, 1997).
- Gandhi, Jennifer. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship* (Cambridge, 2008).
- Handlin, Samuel, *State Crisis in Fragile Democracies: Polarization and Political Regimes in South America* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).
- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton University Press.
- Kalyvas, Stathis, Ian Shapiro, and Tarek Masoud, eds., *Order, Conflict, and Violence*, (Cambridge, 2008).
- Levi, Margaret, The State of the Study of the State, in *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*, Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner (eds) New York & London: Norton.
- Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way, “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism,” *Journal of Democracy* 13:2 (April 2002), pp. 51–65
- Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die* (Penguin Random House, 2019)

- Lust-Okar, Ellen. 2005. *Structuring Conflict in the Middle East: Incumbents, Opponents, and Institutions*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mazduca, Sebastian, *Latecomer State Formation: Political Geography and Capacity Failure in Latin America* (Yale University Press, 2021), Introduction and Chapter One
- Magaloni, Beatriz. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico* (Cambridge, 2006).
- Mann, Michael. The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms, and Results, in Mann, *The Sources of Social Power* (Cambridge, 1986).
- Marx, Anthony, *Making Race and Nation* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).
- Moore, Barrington. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1966).
- Mounira Charrad, *States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco*, University of California Press, 2001, Chapter 1 and 5.
- Mouk, Yascha, *The People vs. Democracy* (Harvard, 2019)
- Nettl, J. P. "The State as a Conceptual Variable," in *World Politics* 20 (1968): 559– 592.
- O'Donnell, G. On the state, development, and some conceptual problems: a Latin American view with some Glances at some post-communist countries. *World Development* 21 (1993), pp. 1355-1369
- Poggi, Gianfranco. *The Development of the Modern State: A Sociological Introduction*, (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1978).
- Policzer, Pablo. *The Rise and Fall of Repression in Chile* (Notre Dame, 2009).
- Przeworski, Adam. *Democracy and the Limits of Self-Government* (Cambridge, 2010).
- Przeworski, A. (2022). Formal Models of Authoritarian Regimes: A Critique. *Perspectives on Politics*, 1-10.
- Putnam, Robert D. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. (Princeton University Press, 1993).
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- Scott, James C. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have Failed*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998).
- Simpson, Audra. 2014. *Mohawk Interrupts: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States*. Duke: Duke University Press.
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- Slater, Dan. 2010. *Ordering Power: Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press.
- Soifer, H. *State Building in Latin America* (Cambridge, 2015).
- Spruyt, Hendrik. "The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (June 2002), pp. 127-149;
- Svolik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. New York: Cambridge University Press
- Teele, Dawn. 2018. *Forging the Franchise: The Political Origins of the Women's Vote*. Princeton University Press.
- Tilly, Charles. War Making and State Making as Organized Crime. *Bringing the State Back In*. Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol (eds) Cambridge University Press, 1985. Pp. 169-191.

Thompson, Debra. *The Schematic State*. Cambridge University Press, 2016, Chapters 1-2, 1-49.

Vergara, Camila, *Systemic Corruption: Constitutional Ideas for an Anti-Oligarchic Republic* (Princeton, 2020); Introduction "Crisis of the Representative Republic" and Ch. 1 "Corruption as Political Decay" (pp. 1-42).

B. Constitutions, political parties, and electoral systems

Amorim Neto, Octavio and Gary Cox. 1997. Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties. *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 149-174,

Anderson, Christopher J., André Blais, Shaun Bowler, Todd Donovan, and Ola Listhaug. 2005. *Losers' Consent: Elections and Democratic Legitimacy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Annesley, Claire, Karen Beckwith, and Susan Franceschet. 2019. *Cabinets, Ministers, and Gender*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Boix, Carles. 1999. Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies. *American Political Science Review* 93 (3): 609-624.

Celis, Karen and Sarah Childs. 2020. *Feminist Democratic Representation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cross, Williard and André Blais. 2012. *Politics at the Centre: the Selection and Removal of Party Leaders in Anglo Parliamentary Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Gandhi, Jennifer & Ellen Lust-Okar. 2009. Elections Under Authoritarianism. *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 403-422.

Kertzer, Joshua D. 2020. "Re-Assessing Elite-Public Gaps in Political Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science* <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12583>

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Mainwaring, Scott and Matthew Shugart. 1997. Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Reappraisal. *Comparative Politics* 29 (4): 449-471.

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- Roberts, Kenneth M. *Changing Course in Latin America: Party Systems in the Neoliberal Era* (Cambridge, 2014).
- Samuels, David J. and Matthew Shugart. 2010. *Presidents, Parties, and Prime Ministers: How the Separation of Powers Affects Party Organization and Behavior*. Cambridge University Press
- Sartori, Giovanni. *Parties and Party Systems: A Framework for Analysis*. Vol. 1. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976).
- Shugart, Michael and John M. Carey, *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics* (Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- Soroka, Stuart, and Christopher Wlezien. 2010. *Degrees of Democracy: Politics, Public Opinion, and Policy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Stoll, Heather. 2013. *Changing Societies, Changing Party Systems*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.

C. Collective identities: Race, ethnicity, indigeneity, religion, and gender

- Abdewal, Rawi Yoshiko Herrera, Alistair Johnson and Rose McDermott. "Identity as a Variable," *Perspectives on Politics* 4(4), 2006: 695-711
- Bauer, Nichole M., Nathan P. Kelmoe, and Erica B. Russell. 2022. "Candidate Aggression and Gendered Voter Evaluations." *Political Psychology* 43(1): 23-44.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/pops.12737>
- Beckwith, Karen. 2010. "Comparative Politics and the Logics of a Comparative Politics of Gender," *Perspectives on Politics* 8(1): 159-168.
- Campbell, Rosie and Philip Cowley. 2014. What Voters Want: Reactions to Candidate Characteristics in a Survey Experiment. *Political Studies* 62 (4).
- Canessa, Andrew, "Indigenous Conflict in Bolivia Explored Through an African Lens: Towards a Comparative Analysis of Indigeneity," in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (2018), pp. 308-337.
- Caraway, Teri L. Gendering Comparative Politics. *Perspectives on Politics* 8 (1): 2010.
- Chandra, Kanchan, *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2012).
- Crosby, Jeffery, and Andrew Monaghan. *Policing Indigenous Movements: Dissent and*
- Forte, Maximilian C., ed. *Who is an Indian? Race, Place, and the Politics of Indigeneity in the Americas* (University of Toronto Press, 2013).
- Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2015. *Nations Under God: How Churches use Moral Authority to Influence Policy*. Princeton University Press.
- Hancock, Ange-Marie. 2007. "When multiplication doesn't equal quick addition: Examining intersectionality as a research paradigm," *Perspectives on Politics* 5(1): 63-79.
- Iverson, Torben and Frances Rosenbluth. 2006. The Political Economy of Gender: Exploring Cross-National Variation in the Gender Division of Labor and the Gender Voting Gap. *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (1): 1–19.

- Jardina, Ashley, Nathan Kelmoe, and Kimberly Gross. 2021. "Disavowing White Identity: How Social Disgust can Change Social Identity." *Political Psychology* 42(4): 619-636.
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- Tripp, Aili. 2007. Historical Perspectives in Comparative Politics and Gender Studies. *Politics & Gender* 3 (3): 397–408
- Van Cott, Donna, Lee *From Movements to Parties: The Evolution of Ethnic Politics in Latin America*. Chapters 1 & 2
- Wolbrecht, Christina and J. Kevin Corder. 2020. *A Century of Votes for Women: American Elections since Suffrage*. Cambridge University Press.
- Yashar, Deborah J. *Contesting Citizenship in Latin America: The Rise of Indigenous Movements and the Postliberal Challenge*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005

D. Contentious politics and violence

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Revised edition. (London and New Haven: Verso, 1991).
- Bardall, Gabrielle, Elin Bjarnegård, and Jennifer M. Piscopo. 2020. How is political violence gendered? Disentangling motives, forms, and impacts. *Political Studies* 68 (4): 916–935.
- Bjarndegård, Elin, Anders Engvall, Srisompob Jitpiromsri, and Erik Melander. 2022. “Armed Violence and Patriarchal Values: A Survey of Young Men in Thailand and their Military Experiences.” *American Political Science Review*.
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- Lawrence, Adria and Erica Chenoweth, eds. *Rethinking Violence: State and Non-State Actors in Conflict* (MIT Press, 2010),
- McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. *Dynamics of Contention* (Cambridge, 2001)
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- Tarrow, Sidney. “Inside Insurgencies: Politics and Violence in an Age of Civil War,” *Perspectives on Politics* 5:3 (September 2007), Review essay, pp.587-600
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- Wood, Elisabeth Jean, *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador* (Cambridge, 2003).

E. Development, policy, and political economy

- Abrahamsen, Rita. *Disciplining Democracy: Development Discourse and Good Governance in Africa* (London: Zed Books, 2000).
- Aklin, Michaël and Matto Mildemberger. 2020. “Prisoners of the Wrong Dilemma: Why Distributive Conflict, Not Collective Action, Characterizes the Politics of Climate Change.” *Global Environmental Politics* 20(4): 4-27.
- Amin, Samir. “The Millenium Development Goals: A Critique from the South,” in *Monthly Review* 57, no.10 (Mar. 2006): 1–15.
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- Bond, Patrick. "Sub-Imperialism as a Lubricant of Neoliberalism: South African 'Deputy Sheriff' Duty with BRICS," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (2013): 251-270.
- Brown, Wendy. *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution* (Zone Books, 2015).
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- Connelly, M. Patricia Connelly, Tania Murray Li, Martha McDonald, and Jane L. Parpart. "Feminism and Development: Theoretical Perspectives." In Jane L. Parpart, M. Patricia Barriteau, and V. Eudine, *Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development*. (Ottawa: IDRC Books, 2000), chapter 3.
- Cooper, Melinda. *Family Values: Between Neoliberalism and the New Social Conservatism* (New York: Zone Books, 2017).
- Cupples, Julie. *Development and Decolonization in Latin America, Second Edition* (London and New York: Routledge, 2021) chapters 3, 4, 6, and 7
- Escobar, Arturo. *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012), chapter 2.
- Esping-Anderson, Gøsta, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton 1990), pp. 9–55.
- Fukuyama, Francis, *The Origins of Political Order* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011)
- Haggard, Stephan. 2015. "The developmental state is dead: long live the developmental state!" in James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen (eds.), *Advances in Comparative Historical Analysis*. Chapter 2 (39-56).
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- Leiva, Fernando Ignacio. *Latin American Neostructuralism: The Contradictions of Post-Neoliberal Development* (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2008), chapters 1, 2, and 11.
- McLaren, Duncan. "Environmental Space, Equity, and the Ecological Debt." In Julian Agyeman, Robert D. Bullard, and Bob Evans (eds.), *Just Sustainabilities: Development in an Unequal World* (London: Earthscan Publications Ltd, 2003), pp. 19–38.
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