



IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

10 April 2014, 2pm
Room Fred Halliday- IBEI (1st Floor)

Prof. Samuel Cohn
Texas A & M University

The State and Development Without Disarticulation: The Invisible Ways That Brazil Creates Jobs For Poor People

Development studies and development economics often mis-specify the mechanisms by which the state creates employment for the poor. Debates over glamorous high visibility issues such as the developmentalist state, direct foreign investment, microcredit or income transfer programs, often ignore more routine garden variety state programs that can have profound effects on the standards of living and economic well being of poor people. Looking at three forgotten sectors, Brazilian hotel, restaurants and barber/beauty shops, and using combining fieldwork and oral history with an unusual statistical methodology, a series of government programs are identified that have had a surprisingly positive effect on employment and income in Brazil. The findings point to the importance of a forgotten theorist of capitalist development, James O'Connor. This has importance both for revising the theory of the developmentalist state, revising the institutionalist critique of neoliberalism, and for addressing the current challenges to continued prosperity that threaten both the Global South and the advanced capitalist nations.

Prof. Samuel Cohn

Samuel Cohn is the founder and first president of the American Sociological Association Section on Development Sociology. He is a professor of sociology at Texas A and M University. His book on gender and development, *Process of Occupational Sextyping*, won the American Sociological Association's Jessie Barnard Award for best book on gender. His book on the state and development, *Employment and Development Under Globalization*, has also won an ASA prize. He has worked on Brazil, the United States, Britain and France - and is currently studying the global history of development. His work on Brazil reconsiders how national governments produce development in settings where creating a full fledged developmentalist state is not feasible.

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