



# Student Conference 2026

# Schedule

**9:30-10:30 Breakfast (HH336)**

**10:30-12:30 Presentations  
(HH222/23/24/27)**

**12:30-2:00 Lunch (HH336)**

**2:00-4:00 Presentations  
(HH222/23/24/27)**

**4:00 Food and Party (HH336)**

## SPONSORS:

Department of Economics

John Jay College Economics Club

John Jay College Law and Political Economy Society

## **INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY I-HH222 (AM)**

Chair: Gabe Caldwell

Faculty: Geert Dhondt, Yahya Madra, Joan Hoffman, Mohammad Mahdy, Corinna Mullin

Presenters:

- Randol Fraser, Socialism in Poland: Why Was It Rejected and Replaced By Capitalism ([randlfraser@gmail.com](mailto:randlfraser@gmail.com))
- Roberta Chin, World War II in the Present: Post-World War II and the Political Economy of America Today ([robertachin13@gmail.com](mailto:robertachin13@gmail.com))
- Rob Romano, Italy's Longstanding Problem: The Role of Capitalism in Shaping the North- South Divide ([rromano0124@gmail.com](mailto:rromano0124@gmail.com))
- Flora Mazrekaj, The Kosovo Fight: The Impact of Recognition on the State's Future ([flora.arts11@gmail.com](mailto:flora.arts11@gmail.com))
- Randiell Tejada, Why are the Countries on Hispaniola Rich and Poor: The Economic Disparities of the Dominican Republic and Haiti ([randielltejada@gmail.com](mailto:randielltejada@gmail.com))

## **CAPITALIST INSTITUTIONS I -HH223 (AM)**

Chair: Lygia Sabbag Fares

Faculty: Thomas Herndon, Michelle Holder, JW Mason, Julio Huato

Presenters:

- Razun Chowdhury, FTX and the Impact of White Collar Crime on Society ([razunc92@gmail.com](mailto:razunc92@gmail.com))
- Keith Cordova, The Illusion of Control: AML Actually Works? Deterrence Compliance and Financial Stability ([cordovakeith1@gmail.com](mailto:cordovakeith1@gmail.com))
- David Naser, The Meaning of Life...to an Economist: Value Theory in the Modern Age ([david.nasser004@gmail.com](mailto:david.nasser004@gmail.com))
- Arjun Janakiram, Value, Energy, and Automation
- Wilson Korik, AI as Enclosure: Intellectual Property as a Changing Institution

## **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ECONOMY I-HH224 (AM)**

Chair: Matt Rosales

Faculty: Sasha High, Jay Hamilton, Christian Parenti, Nate Wright, Caitlin Kline

Presenters:

- Leon Rosen, The Dream of Money, But I'm Basically Homeless
- Justin Tacuri, Puppetries from the US: Psychology and Control. A historical context of the USA controlling the global economy ([justintacuri@icloud.com](mailto:justintacuri@icloud.com))
- Florian Griese, Neocolonial Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century: The Impact of TNC Investment on the Political Economy of the Caribbean ([flo.griese@gmail.com](mailto:flo.griese@gmail.com))
- Paul Hedreen, Blue State, Red Counties: Economic Divergence and Far-Right Political Activity in Washington State ([phedreen@gmail.com](mailto:phedreen@gmail.com))
- Rob Carson, Green Backlash and Far-Right Politics in Germany

## **POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SPORTS-HH227 (AM)**

Chair: Joseph Rebello

Faculty: Cyrus Cappo, Jackson Schwartz, Ian Seda, Brian Pisano, Owen Steinberger

Presenters:

- Lutetia Desmoulins, How NBA GMs Financially Structure their Roster
- Andrei Forman, Ball Does Lie? An Analysis on Alienation within the NBA ([formanandrei619@gmail.com](mailto:formanandrei619@gmail.com))
- Atuchukwu Nwosu, Profit over Play: The Invisible Hand Fouling the NBA ([atuchukwu27@gmail.com](mailto:atuchukwu27@gmail.com))
- Mauricio Jimenez, Pay-to-Play: Soccer's Invisible Barrier in the United States ([mjimenez6150@gmail.com](mailto:mjimenez6150@gmail.com))
- Abbey Olivares, Virtual Stakes, Real Consequences: A Critical Look at the Economic Integration of Online Gambling ([rabbey0013@gmail.com](mailto:rabbey0013@gmail.com))

## **INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY II-HH222 (PM)**

Chair: Ilgin Erdem

Faculty: Mohammad Mahdy, Sasha High, Caitlin Kline, Roger Szajngarten

Presenters:

- Iman Khan, An Analytical Lens on Labor in West Asia ([imanfkhan620@gmail.com](mailto:imanfkhan620@gmail.com))
- Nahed Mohamed, Revolt, Then Return: How the Military Outlasted Egypt's Uprising ([nahed.m1478@gmail.com](mailto:nahed.m1478@gmail.com))
- Zahraa Rakka, A River Turned into a Border, Its People an Afterthought ([zr.rakka@gmail.com](mailto:zr.rakka@gmail.com))
- Rumana Lima, The Long Shadow of the British Crown: The British Empire's Corroboration on Israel's Genocide in Gaza ([rumanalima7@gmail.com](mailto:rumanalima7@gmail.com))
- Vanessa Jeronimo Tovar, The Navy Blue Complex: The Developed World's Depraved Desire for the Underdeveloped ([vjeronimotovar@gmail.com](mailto:vjeronimotovar@gmail.com))

## **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ECONOMY II-HH224 (PM)**

Chair: Cyrus Cappo

Faculty: Yahya Madra, Geert Dhondt, Ian Seda, Christian Parenti, Julio Huato

Presenters:

- Ozu Zolfievnov Suleymanova, Pinochet's Chile: A Blueprint for Global Neoliberalism
- Ash Egyud, US Sanctions: The Case of Venezuela ([ash@egyud.com](mailto:ash@egyud.com))
- William Purtzer, US Sanctions and Iran's Dollar Shortage in December 2025
- Viktoriya Abakumora, Silicon Valley VC Relationship with the US Defense Industry
- Robert Collins, There Will Be Blood: US Armament and the Petroeconomy ([robertjcollins@gmail.com](mailto:robertjcollins@gmail.com))

## **CAPITALIST INSTITUTIONS II-HH223 (PM)**

Chair: Thomas Herndon

Faculty: Jay Hamilton, Joseph Rebello, Owen Steinberger, Jackson Schwartz, Lygia Sabbag Fares

Presenters:

- Joselyn Barrera Garcia, Profits Over Plates: How Corporate Strategy and Weak Regulation Reshaped American Diets ([joselynbgarci04@gmail.com](mailto:joselynbgarci04@gmail.com))
- Kayla Frith, Dream Deferred, Future Denied: An Analysis of the Death of the American Dream ([kaylafrith11@gmail.com](mailto:kaylafrith11@gmail.com))
- Liliana Palafox Flores, Effective Tax Rates and Early-Career Wealth Accumulation: How Tax Burdens Influence Savings for Recent Graduates in Military vs. Civilian Career Paths ([yarelipalafox19@gmail.com](mailto:yarelipalafox19@gmail.com))
- Melissa Cruz Duque, It's Not Consumption, It's a Lifestyle: How the Digital Economy Reshaped Post-Pandemic Consumer Confidence and Spending Patterns ([melissa.cruz24@outlook.com](mailto:melissa.cruz24@outlook.com))
- Yeniz Hernandez, A Costly Addiction: The Overconsumption Economy and The Climate Crisis ([yclhernandez@gmail.com](mailto:yclhernandez@gmail.com))

## **LABOR -Room HH227 (PM)**

Chair: JW Mason

Faculty: Michelle Holder, Matt Rosales, Joan Hoffman, Nate Wright, Gabe Caldwell

Presenters:

- Johana Maldonado-Gonzalez, Is it Really Job Stealing? Do Undocumented Immigrants Affect Employment Opportunities for Native Born Workers in the United States ([johanamg16@icloud.com](mailto:johanamg16@icloud.com))
- Nishat Kabir, Behind the Seams: Unwinding the Impact of the Garment Industry on Women's Labor Force and Mobility in Bangladesh ([nishatkabir101@gmail.com](mailto:nishatkabir101@gmail.com))
- Milena Veliz Lopez, The Nature of 21st Century Precarious Labor: Can the Retail Sector be Unionized and What Barriers Do Organizers Face? ([milenaVeliz312@gmail.com](mailto:milenaVeliz312@gmail.com))
- Bianca Catalan-Lucero, Mortal Kombat: Are Capitalist Incentives in the Public's Interest? An analysis of Hospital Staffing Laws in New York City Through Union Perspectives ([biancacatalan066@gmail.com](mailto:biancacatalan066@gmail.com))
- Gabriel Strauss, New York City's "Fissured" Human Services Workforce