

UHM Political Science Friday Colloquium

NEOLIBERALISM AND THE GLOBAL
MIDDLE CLASS: STORIES FROM DENMARK,
PALESTINE, SOUTH KOREA AND INDIA

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The rise of what has often been called neoliberalism since 1980 has been accompanied by contrasting and contradictory narratives regarding the middle class. On the one hand, a large number of works have argued the middle class, especially in the west, is faced with a terminal decline as jobs are outsourced, real wages stagnate, returns from wealth outstrip incomes based on economic growth, and multiple crises afflict education, health and the welfare-state. On the other hand, a demographic argument about the rise of the middle classes in emerging economies is touted as the basis for the next big wave of capital accumulation by many others. In this colloquium, four graduate students from the Political Science department help us understand the contradictory impulses and shape-shifting contours of the middle class and its fraught relationship with neoliberal globalization through detailed examinations of the middle class in Denmark, Palestine, South Korea and India in recent decades. These papers will all be featured in a special issue of the journal *Alternatives* on neoliberalism and globalization later this year. Please come join us to hear the presentations and engage in a discussion with the presenters.



FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015
TIME: 2:30 TO 4:00 PM
FRIEDMAN ROOM,
624 SAUNDERS