

***Dream Zones: Anticipating Capitalism and Development in India,***  
Jamie Cross. Pluto Press, London. 2014

... large-scale industrial infrastructure project like those in contemporary India are built on an **economy of anticipation**... Contemporary capitalism is built on dreams as well as nightmares. These are the quintessentially modern dreams of economic and social re-ordering. They are the dreams of modernity, of mass employment leading to prosperity and progress, and mass production eliminating scarcity. They are neoliberal dreams of market freedom, of private enterprise liberated from the constraints of government, politics and culture. They are corporate dreams of profit without responsibility and control without resistance. They are modest dreams of the good life, of everyday hopes and aspirations for improvements in ways of living, of upward movement through hierarchies of wealth and status, of social mobility and material wellbeing, of economic security and betterment. And they are oppositional dreams, of popular mobilisations against state and capital, of radical breaks with the present and other possible worlds than this.

The reduction of projects and policies to a totalising logic, may focus the challenge ahead but they remain an 'ethnographically thin' kind of political praxis (theory/action) that impoverishes our understanding of power, culture and agency.

Current anthropology is driven by an **aesthetic of emergence** that treats global economic processes as provisional, indeterminate and contingent...an anthropology of capitalism that re-conceptualises forces that were classically treated as distinct and opposing as reciprocally interactive and mutually constituting, in ways intended to destabilise monolithic portraits of power, domination and resistance. It is an anthropology that apprehends capitalism as immanent in human action rather than as a system of 'a priori coherence', that sees how projects of accumulation are constituted, redirected, diverted and undermined by elements that sometimes appear external to them; an anthropology that is concerned with the ways that economic ideologies, rationalities and technologies are always local even as they travel globally, that is focused on the encounters and engagements, connections and frictions between places and people, ways of knowing and ways of being... challeng(ing) us to consider the elements of collaboration, compromise, and contingency, ambivalence and ambiguity in the relationships between the rural poor and the state, or between industrial workers and the corporation, rather than to assume 'the blunt imposition of political rule' or subaltern false consciousness.

Large-scale infrastructure projects like India's SEZs are **exemplary sites of anticipatory practice**. They are arenas in which people attempt to know and master the unknowable future with modes of planning, calculation and prediction; borrowing against the expectation of future profits or returns, mapping development visions, modelling growth trajectories or bracketing potential risks. They are also arenas of imagination, hope, aspiration and desire in which people construct and assemble possible future worlds for themselves and others from existing ideas and practices.

define bold terms, exemplify the concepts in material from class (ie BBF, Bitter seeds, Factory Girls, LCC, Made in China, dowry death, arranged marriage)