

Chicago *out of place*

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Lead theme ... analytical line (1)

- ❑ **Lead theme:** metropolitan transformation
- ❑ **Time frame:** focus on post-crisis institutional/discursive searching (1985-present), in context of post-WWII (Fordist) growth
- ❑ **Scale:** primarily metropolitan, with attention to intraurban spatial transformations and state/federal relations



Lead theme ... analytical line (2)



- Co-constitution of (a) discursive representations of growth projects [*socioeconomic imaginaries*] and (b) material-institutional transformations
- Tracking “emergent structures” in a restructuring metropolitan economy, assigning due weight to discursive and institutional interventions
 - ... real-time, multi-actor narratives of Chicago’s future(s)
- Explication of processes of “actually existing” neoliberal transformation

Space/time dynamics

- ❑ Fordism
 - *Accumulation*: decentralizing mass production complemented by downtown commercial redevelopment
 - *Regulation*: urban machine politics embedded in a federal Keynesian regime
- ❑ Dislocation
 - *Accumulation*: between (localized) deindustrialization and (suburbanized) profit-driven growth
 - *Regulation*: hollowing out local state capacity; fiscal and political crises; rise and fall of progressive governance
- ❑ After-Fordism
 - *Accumulation*: property-, consumption-, and credit-led development
 - *Regulation*: neoliberal growth machine politics in context of federal and state withdrawal from the redevelopment arena

	Fordism	Dislocation	After-Fordism
Administrations	Daley I (1955-76)	Washington (1983-87)	Daley II (1989-present)
Development orientation	Managing and redistributing growth	Restoring growth; balancing growth	Harnessing and redistributing growth
Growth regime	Fordist, plus banking and commerce	Retrenchment and roll back	Unequal, based on liberalized capital flows
Propulsive or dominant sectors	Durable manufacturing; downtown commerce	Residualized manufacturing; resurgent real-estate	Dispersed—real estate; business services; finance
Social reproduction	Suburbanizing, family wage; racial balkanization	Public schooling and public housing crises	Polarizing—gentrification with private provisioning
Socioeconomic distribution	“Great compression:” downward redistribution, racially patterned	“Disappearing middle:” working-class job loss, hollowing out of income distribution	“Unequal growth:” post-Kuznets growth pattern, based on normalized inequality
Sociospatial distribution	Industrial decentralization and downtown development; blighted neighborhoods	Accelerating neighborhood decline; faltering downtown growth	Downtown development with systemic gentrification; continued exurban growth
Principal contradictions	Centrifugal industrial development; racialized poverty and underemployment	Outmoded manufacturing capital stock; systemic political conflict; “underclass” formation	Subsidized social inequality; diminishing returns to interurban competition; working poverty
Discursive representations	<i>Downtown development plan/shoot to kill</i>	<i>City on the brink/ American millstone/ Chicago on hold</i>	<i>Chicago blues/green city/ 2016 Olympic bid</i>
Indicative business interests	Central Area Committee	Commercial Club	World Business Chicago
Counter-hegemonic interests	Suppressed; disenfranchised African-American population	Resurgent; neighborhoods; black power; civil rights	Diffused; unions and progressive community groups

DEMOLOGOS

	Fordism	Dislocation	After-Fordism
Urban growth regime	Managerialist	Interventionist	Opportunist
Local state	Machine politics (votes for jobs and neighborhood services, selectively delivered)	Conflict and insurgency (rise, contestation, and fall of progressive urban politics)	Urban pragmatism (managing political constituencies while steering growth)
Neighborhood relations	Racially selective	Progressive reconstruction	Market selective
Urban-national relations	Keynesian fiscal transfers/clout	Alienated/oppositional; countervailing policy development	Bootstrapping neoliberalism/urban leadership
Urban-global relations	Immigrant assimilation	International competitive threats	Global-city anxiety

Interscalar dialectics (1)

- ❑ Searching for a new institutional fix: foreshortening of investment, policy development, and semiotic cycles
- ❑ New rules of the game: abandonment of spatial Keynesianism in favor of the rule of markets; financialization = unruly growth + fiscal discipline + socioeconomic insecurity
- ❑ Framing meta-narratives: deindustrialization (closure and contraction) and the globalizing city (openness and opportunity)

Interscalar dialectics (2)

- ❑ Time/scale intensification: speed up in the turnover time of development models, socioeconomic imaginaries, growth projects ... “discursive switching” complements capital switching
- ❑ Neoliberal scalar dialectics: competitive downloading and place-based competition meets creatively pragmatic urbanism
- ❑ Socioeconomic development in space: from a demand-driven, *mechanical* form of growth (based on propulsive industries) to a supply-induced, *mercurial* form of growth (based on financialization and capital switching)

Power, imaginaries and the sociopolitics of the possible

- ❑ Retooling the machine: consolidation of “post-machine” urban politics and the reassertion of real-estate interests in Chicago’s postindustrializing economy
- ❑ Neither in crisis nor entirely beyond it
- ❑ Dirty work of urban hegemony: acceleration of experimental development narratives (Vegas on the lake; Silicon Prairie, the “green” city)
- ❑ Re-politicization of alternative development visions: the rise, fall and return of progressive development politics

Conclusions

- ❑ Chicago's crisis (deindustrialization) discursively fixed as a terminal event
- ❑ A [no-name] form of growth has been restored, though in material terms the crisis remains unresolved
 - “Machine” form of pragmatic urban management has been effectively retooled for the neoliberalizing policy environment
 - The global city script legitimizes and normalizes financialized, property-led, socially polarizing form of growth (reserves a space for opportunistic governance)
 - Accelerating turnover of putative growth “models” and socioeconomic development narratives

