Arrested Development?
Sub-Saharan Africa in the Stratified World-Economy 1965 - 2015

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112th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association
Section on Inequality, Poverty and Mobility Refereed Roundtable
Introduction

- Macro-comparative approach

- Extreme case comparisons
  Seawright & Gerring. 2008. *Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research*
Data and Method

A question of approach

- Wallerstein conceptualization of semi-periphery
- structural inequality
- how do you measure global economic stratification?
Data and Method

- Arrighi and Drangel

  - Percent of world population as a function of log GNI per capita

  - Period of study: 1965 to 2015

  - Time not geographic space held constant
Categorization of zones

![Graph showing the percentage of total world population in different economic zones based on 2015 Log GNI Per Capita. The zones are: peripheral economic zone, semiperipheral economic zone, core economic zone.](image-url)
Results

- Position of populous countries
- Position of SSA over time
Results

Distribution of world population and countries in the global economic hierarchy 1991
Results
1991 global economic hierarchy

Red: core
Yellow: semiperiphery
Green: periphery
Results

Distribution of world population and countries in the global economic hierarchy 2001
Results

2001 global economic hierarchy

Red: core
Yellow: semiperiphery
Green: periphery
Results

Distribution of world population and countries in the global economic hierarchy 2010

- Peripheral economic zone
- Semiperipheral economic zone
- Core economic zone
Results

2010 global economic hierarchy

Red: core
Yellow: semiperiphery
Green: periphery
Results

Post-decolonization 1965

- SSA countries in semiperiphery included:
  - South Africa
  - Gabon
  - Seychelles
  - Zimbabwe
  - Zambia

- Remaining SSA countries in periphery
Results

Percent of SSA in the periphery and semiperiphery from 1965 through 2015.
### Results

Results

- SSA countries
  - enter at the semiperipheral zone and stay there
  - move from bottom of distribution to semiperipheral zone and stay there
  - move up steadily in hierarchy during period of significant Chinese economic intervention
Results

*at the country level*

Table 1. Differences in Rank from 2000 to 2005 and 2005 to 2010 for SSA countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>2000 vs 2005 Difference in Rank</th>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>2005 vs 2010 Difference in Rank</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seychelles</td>
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<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Gabon</td>
<td>-1</td>
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<td>Gabon</td>
<td>+12</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>-8</td>
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<td>Namibia</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>+9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
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<td>Namibia</td>
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<td>+45</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cabo Verde</td>
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<td>Gambia, The</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Impact of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)?

Strengthening civil society?

Uneven development and inherently unbalanced economy/‘enclave and dual economy’?
Country in Focus

Zimbabwe

- Post-independence economic landscape
- Illusory dynamic economic growth
- IMF declares “under-borrower”
- Exogenous stress factors
- Extreme debt
- Land reforms
Country in Focus

Botswana

- Quintessential example of democratic economic development
- What does luck have to do with it?
- Homogeneity?
Country in Focus

*Botswana*

- Institutional reasons for development
- Exogenous factors
- Within country inequality
Arrested development?
*SSA in the stratified world-economic system*

- Decreasing between country inequality and possibility for SSA
- Dutch disease?
- Geopolitics?
Thank You