Agenda for Discussion. Session #3. Bob Jessop September 29, 2011

A. METATHEORETICAL ISSUES

1. Ecological Dominance, functional explanation, the strategic relational approach (Michael, Paul, Joao)

- What does "dominance" really mean? Why isn't this really economic determinism?
- How is this really different from the causal asymmetry of base/superstructure functional arguments when things are explained by what the state "must" do?
- The strategic-relational approach: what precisely does the "capacity of selecting strategies by a structure" mean? (Joao)

2. Over-determination: what does this really mean? (Emmanuel)

3. Trial-and-error process:

- How does this really work? (Emmanuel, Taylan)
- What about neoliberalism as a deliberate political strategy rather than a trial-and-error response? (Taylan)
- What is the connection between the idea that class struggle shapes state forms and that transitions between state forms are the result of a trial and error process? (Yotaro)

B. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

4. Democracy (Naama)

• What is the role of liberal democracy in the analysis? The problem of democracy seems largely absent from these texts.

5. Current contradictions of accumulation

- Contradiction of exchange value and usevalue: Why has this intensified in the current period? (Bob)
- What does it mean for wages to shift from a source of demand to cost of production? (Chris)

6. Denationalization, deterritorialization (Sarah, Mitch)

- Is the state really becoming postnational?
- How does the last ten years of developments around nature and finance affect the arguments about deterrotirialization and the postnational state?