

Review of  
**Development & Change**  
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**Growth of a Wasteland**

Amit Bhaduri

**Abstract**

The paper begins by drawing some analogies between China and India to emphasise the link between growing inequality and acceleration in the rate of economic growth in both countries despite the differences in their political systems. It then argues how inequality feeds on growth and growth feeds on inequality through a mechanism of mutual positive feedback of cumulative causation in which land acquisition by the government for 'public purpose' to help corporate-led industrialisation plays an increasingly prominent role. The paper ends by pointing out the problems it raises for Indian democracy.

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**Negotiating Policy Research, Academic Knowledge, and Political Movements: One Researcher's Experience**

Carol Upadhya

**Abstract**

This paper reflects upon my recent experience in carrying out a policy-oriented research project on laws, policies, and practices related to land rights in Jharkhand. The research threw up issues that are empirically very complex and theoretically as well as politically sensitive, and raised questions about the production and uses of academic knowledge in the context of state-sponsored development-oriented research. This paper highlights concerns about the relationship between academic research and knowledge, politics, and policy-making, and points to broader questions about history, memory, and power in the context of adivasi autonomy movements.

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**Public Investment in Orissa in Post-Reform Period: An Empirical Study of Budget Data**

Bimal K. Mohanty

**Abstract**

This paper makes an empirical study of the behaviour of investment expenditure (capital expenditure) of the Government of Orissa in the post-reform period from 1990–91 to 2004–05. The dataset for the study has been procured from several budget publications of the Government of Orissa. In spite of the desire of the government to accelerate such expenditure for increasing the economic and human development status of the state, the mounting debt burden and its repayment has been the major constraint on realizing welfare goals.

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## **Where Do Our Financial Institutions Stand in Extending Agricultural Credit? Evidence from Kalahandi District, Orissa**

Gagan Bihari Sahu

### **Abstract**

As the supply-led approach started to threaten the viability of financial institutions, the policy thrust since the 1990s shifted to making agricultural credit a viable activity. In this phase of agricultural credit policy, importance was given to achieving quantitative targets without neglecting the viability of the financial institutions. In this context, this paper examines the impact of the changing face of bank lending on the credit flow to agricultural borrowers in Kalahandi district of Orissa. It is observed in the study that credit rationing is widely practised by the bankers, and small and marginal farmers have been worse hit. They turn to informal sources, and are in the process subjected to exploitation in the interlocked credit markets. Access to institutional credit for small and marginal farmers, therefore, continues to be an outstanding issue in rural credit markets, calling for appropriate programme and planning intervention.

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## **The Calling of a New Critical Theory: The Socio-Cognitive Critique of Piet Strydom and Beyond**

Ananta Kumar Giri

### **Abstract**

Piet Strydom originally from South Africa but teaching in Ireland for the last three decades has made valuable contributions to continental traditions of critical social theory. His concept of 'triple contingency' and his subsequent contributions on 'triple contingency learning,' resonance, socio-cognitive critique, and emergent frames of co-responsibility are valuable contributions to critical theory. In recent years Strydom has developed a path of critical theoretical engagement called socio-cognitive critique which creatively brings together constructivist, cognitive and realist approaches to understanding society as well as critiquing it. The essay discusses Strydom's work in critical theory and then suggests that his critical theory could include more processes of self-development and planetary realizations.

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