

GEOG 121: Geographies of Globalization

Fall 2023

Dr. Jon Lepofsky

2:00-3:15pm ET, Tuesdays & Thursdays

005 Mitchell Hall

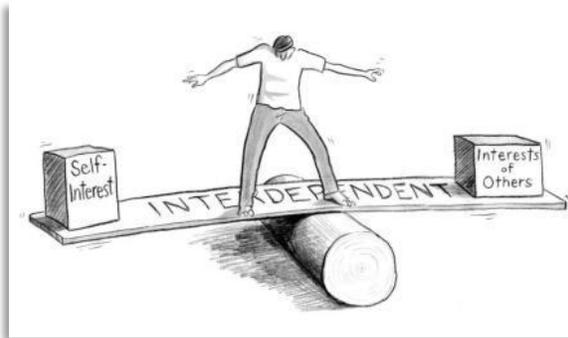


Image sources: [Ilim ve Medeniyet](#) & [Globalization and World Cities Research Network](#)

Where are you, and how did you get there?

That deceptively simple question can open up a world for you to explore, especially if you try to answer it by thinking like a geographer. In *Geographies of Globalization*, you will come to understand the complex arrangements of space and place that can help you answer such a question. Those complex arrangements of space and place—the basis of geography—both cause and are the effects of how you relate to the world: not just where you are, but why you are there. Indeed, geography is all about the why of where.

That simple question warrants a more complex answer than just naming a location you could identify on Google Maps. That is why geography is so much more than a list of place names or facts about locations. Using the analytical and interpretive tools of geography, you will come to understand how complex of an answer it is possible to develop. That is because if you are thinking like a geographer, as you will come to practice in this course, you would begin by exploring an idea that is taken-for-granted in geography: **interdependence**. You will come to understand what interdependence means this semester, especially in terms of geographical space. In sum, interdependence is a way of conceptualizing the webs of connections between people and places. So, wherever you are, you are always and already connected to people and places that are somewhere else.

Especially at this current moment, where you are and how you got there is related to the forms and processes of globalization. You will come to understand much more about that word globalization in this course and why it can be particularly useful to describe your own interdependencies (as well as when it loses its usefulness). So, in order to help you answer the opening question like a geographer, this course is designed around a similar question, one more even more explicitly focused on the geographies of globalization:

How are you connected to people and places through geographies of globalization?

By the end of this course, you will learn how to develop an intellectually rich, evidence-based answer to that question by examining three interrelated facets of globalization's geographies: **capital**, **communication**, and **culture**. And, you'll know and understand much more about where you are, and how you got there.