

# Internationally Segmented Labour Markets and the Automobile Components Industry – The Effects of Spatialisation on Capital-Labour Relations in the US and Mexico

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# Theoretical Starting Point

- Social Structures of Accumulation (SSA) framework as a means of analysing globalisation and capitalist social relations
- Why SSA theory?
  - Social dimension
  - Emphasis on stability of external environment for investment
  - Social structures reflect characteristics of period in which they occur

# Spatialisation Theory

- Connects the globalisation of the economy to the spatial restructuring of work and anticipates the likely consequences of FDI for labour (Brady & Wallace, 2000)
- Suggests that locational decisions of capital are part of a grander strategy by capital to control labour (Sherman, Grant & Wallace, 1994)
- Role in identifying qualitative changes in the global conditions of capital-labour relations

# Research Question

- How are corporate locational decisions jointly determined by local institutions and corporate strategies of production organisation and labour control?

# Relevance

- TNCs link production processes across borders
- Disintegration of production adds national boundaries to existing labour segmentation
- International segmentation of labour occurs on a global scale
- Corporate strategies and local institutions jointly determine production and labour outcomes

## Case study

- Of company 'X' from the automobile components industry with facilities in both Mexico and the US
- Comparative study of systems of production and industrial relations in Mexican and non-Mexican facilities

# Data collection analysis

- On-site qualitative interviews
  - Plant managers, union leaders, floor supervisors  
engineers
- Secondary sources

Thanks for your time - any and all feedback  
welcomed!