

Final Reminders (“What should we be doing over the winter break?”):

- Think about your research interests for winter and develop your question. Your project may focus on a crop case study along the lines we explored in fall, or it may be based on a question that has emerged out of any area of your program work. As you develop your question, remember that it needs to be answerable in terms of material that is available (i.e., you can't research the future). This also means that you might take a preliminary look at what library resources exist that could help you answer it. Please remember that the scope of the project is 9-10 pages and it must be completed in 9 weeks; so try to be specific and narrow in your question in order to achieve depth in your weeks of study. You will develop a research proposal during week one of the winter.
- Carefully read Part 1—Industrial/Corn—of Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (we will discuss part 1 during week one and selections from parts 2 and 3 during week 5 of the winter).
- Please get started reading Angus Wright, *The Death of Ramón González: The Modern Agricultural Dilemma*, Revised Edition (2005) for week two of winter.
- While you are on break take some time to see what you notice about how things may be changing at home or where ever you may be. If you get a chance to have conversation with folks, discuss with them some changes they've seen in recent years (if possible over the last thirty years). Just get some initial impressions to prepare for “Neoliberalism in My Neighborhood.” We'll be digging more in depth into this in the political economy workshops during winter quarter this may give you an informal and casual chance to start thinking about it.

First Class Meeting: Monday, January 7, 2008 at 9am in Sem 2, A1107

Have a good break!