



Special Session Proposal

Culture Based Development in the Regions of India

Annie Tubadji, Swansea University (a.k.tubadji@swansea.ac.uk)

Abstract

Culture Based Development (CBD) research often claims that it is Neo-Weberian (see Tubadji 2023; 2025a,b). Why? Max Weber developed a line of research on religious attitudes as a marker for cultural differences across space that lead to different forms of capitalism emerging in different geographies. The first book in this line of Weber's research is the famous: Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism. It was followed by his books on China, India and Ancient Judaism that fulfilled his agenda on studying socio-economics through the lens of culture approximated by religion. CBD is a quest for improved precision in the quantitative work on cultural bias in economic choice. That is why CBD advocates a comprehensive measurement of local culture instead of using mono-dimensional proxies such as religion. But CBD importantly endorses the main postulate in Weber's economics of religion - namely, that local cultural attitudes lead to different development - i.e. different forms of capitalism. Therefore, CBD asked: Was Weber Right? (Tubadji, 2014, IJM) and continued checking the answer of this question, through improved CBD-style precision in quantifying culture through Cultural Heritage and Living Culture factor variables, in over 50 personally authored papers and a series of special issues where colleagues were invited to join forces in continuing the CBD Neo-Weberian quest.

The CBD Neo-Weberian approach has been applied in special issues of leading economic journals. These special issues have been designed and developed along the steps of Max Weber, the first dedicated to the Occident, the second to China, followed by a special issue now on India and a special issue on the Semitic world.

You are cordially invited to have a look at the past CBD Neo-Weberian special issues and to contribute to the new ones!!! Here where you can find them:

- CBD Neo-Weberian SI on the Occident: <https://www.emerald.com/.../Introduction-to-cultural...>
- CBD Neo-Weberian SI on China: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/mjei20/57/1>
- CBD Neo-Weberian SI on India: https://www-mlgd.wu.ac.at/.../Call_SI_Neo-Weberian.pdf **(OPEN CALL!!!)**
- CBD Neo-Weberian SI on the Semitic world: <https://link.springer.com/collections/abfedjehac> **(OPEN CALL!!!)**.

The current special session seeks further replications of the CBD Neo-Weberian approach specifically for the regions of India. Potential contributions include:

- Does the local investment in cultural heritage and living culture explain regional productivity differences across the regions of India?
- How is the local balance between cultural heritage and living culture (i.e. the local cultural entropy) associated with the local levels of innovation across the regions of India?
- How are cultural heritage, living culture and cultural entropy related to regional inequality across the regions of India?
- What is the role of local cultural capital and its variation in comparing the development of the employment trajectory of a Hindu citizen living in India as opposed to one living in a different geography such as the UK?

References

Tubadji, A. (2025a). Culture Based Development : Modelling Cultural Bias in Economic Choice. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
Tubadji, A. (2025b). Cultural Entropy, Innovation, and Growth. *Politics & Policy*, 53(4), e70050.
Tubadji, A. (2023). Culture Based Development in the Regions of China. *Journal of Economic Issues*, 57(1), 8-35