

# Pictures of a Gone City

## Tech and the Dark Side of Prosperity in the San Francisco Bay Area

a talk with

Richard A. Walker

Professor Emeritus of Geography  
University of California, Berkeley

Thursday, November 08, 2018

11:40 - 1:15PM

Humanities 2 Room 259

The San Francisco Bay Area is currently the jewel in the crown of capitalism – the tech capital of the world and a gusher of wealth for the Silicon Gold Rush. It generates jobs, spawns innovation, and spreads ideas that changes lives. So, what could be wrong?

Spanning economics, urban design, politics, and the environment, Walker provides a profoundly historical approach to illuminate the basic crisis and contradictions of the Bay Area. While capitalism is at its most dynamic and innovative times in the San Francisco Bay Area, Walker will present how it is a site of **severe inequality with failing public policies** and infrastructure. Thus, **Walker calls for the Bay Area to reclaim its radical roots!**

**RICHARD WALKER** is Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught from 1975 to 2012 and served at various times as Chair of Geography, Global Metropolitan Studies, and California Studies. He has written on a diverse range of topics in economic, urban, and environmental geography, published in journals from *Society and Space* to *New Left Review*. He is co-author of two classics in economic geography, *The Capitalist Imperative* (1989) and *The New Social Economy* (1992). He has written extensively on California, including *The Conquest of Bread* (2004), *The Country in the City* (2007) and *The Atlas of California* (2013). His latest book is *Pictures of a Gone City: Tech and the Dark Side of Prosperity in the San Francisco Bay Area* (2018). Walker's awards include Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships, the Distinguished Scholarship Award of the Association of American Geographers, the Carey McWilliams Award from California Studies Association, and the Hal Rothman prize from the Western History Association. He lives half the year in Berkeley and the other half in Burgundy.

