

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2004

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

RC 09 SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

This issue of our Newsletter serves two purposes: to give you some recent information on our common research topics and to open up a dialogue on Social Transformations and Development. We encourage the submission of short responses for the next issue of our Newsletter (please send your comments to Nina Bandelj, the secretary of RC 09: nbandelj@uci.edu).

RC 09 Publications

We are glad to inform our members that RC 09 now has a publication which reflects the current interests of our Research Committee. We invite our members to order the book. We hope that you will find this publication interesting and we would be delighted to receive your comments.

Global Forces and Local Life-Worlds: Social Transformations by Ulrike Schuerkens (ed.), London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi, Sage, January 2004

1. Preface by Willfried Spohn
2. Introduction by Ulrike Schuerkens (ed.)
3. "The Sociological and Anthropological Study of Globalization and Localization" by Ulrike Schuerkens
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5. "'Ethnicity is Everywhere': On Globalization and the Transformation of Cultural Identity" by Helmuth Berking
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13. "Paradise Lost? Social Change and *Fa'afafine* in Samoa" by Jo Schmidt
14. "Autochthonous Australian Syncretism" by George Morgan

Forthcoming RC09 Publications

Ulrike Schuerkens is editing a special issue of *Current Sociology* (to be published in 2005) with the title **Transnational Migrations and Social Transformations**. Several papers that have been prepared for the International Institute of Sociology Beijing Congress have been collected in an outstanding volume. Please, find here the preliminary content of this issue of *Current Sociology*.

1. Introduction and theoretical framework: "Transnational Migrations and Social Transformations", by Ulrike Schuerkens, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France.

2. CASE STUDIES OF TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATIONS

2.1. "The Emergence of Pan-Mayan Ethnicity in the Guatemalan Transnational Community Linking Santa Eulalia and Los Angeles," by Eric Popkin, Assistant Professor, Colorado College, USA

2.2. "Emerging Transnational Migration from Romanian Villages," by Professor Dumitru Sandu, University of Bucharest, Romanian

2.3. "Labour Immigration into Russia: Response of the State and the Society," by Professor Tatiana Ioudina, Moscow State Social University, Russian Federation

2.4. "Refugees as a Particular Form of Trans-national Migrations and Social Transformations: Socio-anthropological and Gender Aspects," by Susanne Binder and Jelena Tosic, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

3. TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATIONS AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

- 3.1. “Global Migration Patterns and Transnational Family Practices: Comparing the Chinese and Salvadoran Cases,” by Professor Patricia Landolt and Dr. Wei Wei Da, University of Toronto, Canada
- 3.2. “Transnational Female Migrations and the Transformation of Gender Relations,” by Dr. Petra Dannecker, University of Bielefeld, Germany
- 3.3. “The Transnationalization of Social Inequality,” Dr. Anja Weiss, University of the Bundeswehr, München, Germany
- 3.4. “Oh Lucky Country - Barriers to Labour Market Integration of Skilled Migrants and Refugees,” Dr. Regine Wagner, Merilyn Childs and Janis Constable, Centre for Learning and Social Transformation, University of Western Sydney, Australia

This edition was developed from our research activities. The most important aspect of the issue is its emphasis on the linking of transnational migrations and social transformations.

Rationale and approach: Differences in living standards and opportunities explain why an increasing pressure for emigration between countries of the South and the North, as well as between countries of the South exists. People in better economic circumstances, or people in countries higher up the per capita GNP ladder, know where opportunities for immigration exist. Migration influences wages in emigration and immigration regions in the short term to medium terms. Migrants who send parts of their income to the country of origin influence the economy of their home countries. Marx, Myrdal, Hirschmann and Wallerstein argued that migration increases rather than decreases development differences in the world. The mobility of people is one of the potential determinants of core-periphery structures. In this issue, we wish to study the actual link between migration and development as it remains an empirical question studied in concrete situations. Until now, empirical case studies let appear the co-existence of the convergence and divergence theses related to migration and development. Periods of economic development of regions and countries exist when migration causes divergence effects. They may be followed by periods when migration induces convergence effects between the North and the South. But migration rarely seems to be able to induce the far-reaching social and economic changes that are required to advance the development process in most countries of the South. Remittances and return migrations seem to be other development factors. Development aid is another strategy to reduce international migrations over the long term.

In our current world, the potential for emigration is very important: the majority of the world's present and future population lives in developing countries. But developing countries have only a

limited capability of employing additional numbers of workers. Therefore, emigration pressures from developing countries will be one of the most acute development problems of the coming decades. In our increasingly integrated world system, it is necessary to examine population movements which seem to be an important element in the changing world order. A broader knowledge of international migration flows and of the impact of decisions of governments and individual migrants on patterns, causes and impacts of migration will contribute to increase our insights on the new world order of the 21st century.

In order to understand more deeply actual migration and development patterns, we reassemble in this issue case studies based on country- or region-specific macro- and micro-conditions. A uniform South does not exist and the effects of migration on development will not be the same for all countries of the South. A dynamic theory of migration and development has to consider the mutual links of migration and social transformations, the influence of a beginning development on migration and the effects of migration on development. Currently, empirical evidence suggests that migration has had positive effects in countries of emigration and immigration. However, long-term impacts of migration are rather difficult to identify. The case studies in this book will contribute to clarify the complexity of real situations.

Features: With our current limited knowledge, it is most important to study the link between transnational migrations and social transformations. We will try to contribute to this debate in the different chapters of the special issue which tackles numerous aspects with often new theoretical thinking and new empirical insights.

Midterm Conference

of ISA, RC 09 "Social Transformations and Sociology of Development" will be held in Beijing, China, 7th until 11th July 2004 during the 36th World Congress of the *International Institute of Sociology* organised by the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: "Social Change in the Age of Globalization".

The following sessions are planned:

Session chaired by Ulrike Schuerkens (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France) and Eric Popkin (Colorado College, USA) with the title "Migration, Transnationalism and Social Transformation"

Session abstract: In this session, we are looking for papers which tackle the combined effects of international migrations and world development. During the last years, it became more and more evident that globalisation characterises more and more international migrations. New forms of interdependence, transnational societies, and regional co-operation transform the lives of millions of people, who are linking the future of states and societies. In the countries of the South, international migrations contribute to the development of these societies by remittances of migrants from the North to the South which play an important role in national and even international development plans.

World system theory considers international migrations as a structural consequence of the extension of markets into a global political-hierarchical system. With the extension of capitalism to ever greater parts of the world, growing parts of people are introduced into the global economy. International migrations followed the creation of global links between primary goods, labour and land. Some simple theses are resulting from this: international migrations follow international capital movements, but in the opposite direction. The creation of ideological and material relations still complete these migration processes: colonialism, common languages, commerce, transport, mass media, and travel link and linked different regions of the world and let appear international migration flows into some core states. For many countries of the South, international migrations are one aspect of the social crisis which accompanies their integration into a global market, and their social and economic development. Since some years, it appears that migrant communities create networks that link regions of origin and those of immigration. Today, these transnational links contribute to changes of economic, social, demographic and cultural structures which put into question national identities. International migrations don't change only migrants themselves, but whole societies and their relations with each other.

For this session, we would like to encourage theoretical oriented case studies or theoretical reflections based on empirical facts linked to the research frame indicated above. Papers should include macro-sociological approaches and, when possible and appropriate, an historical perspective.

**Session chaired by Ulrike Schuerkens (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France):
"Globalisation, Tradition and Multiple Modernities"**

Session abstract: In the last decade, our research activities have concentrated on micro-sociological analyses of socio-economic, political and cultural transformations of local life-worlds through the continuing and intensifying processes of globalisation. Our regional focus has been particularly on the non-western world, but it has also included a western comparative perspective. In the emerging contemporary world, two processes of social transformation increasingly and inextricably intertwine.

On the one hand, there are universalising processes of modernisation and globalisation, mostly of western origins, that are spreading all over the world. On the other hand, there are tendencies to maintain traditional life-worlds, attempting at keeping up the authenticity of their cultures. The interaction of these processes results in varying forms of implantation of and adaptation to western modernity and non-western traditions, various forms of reaction and resistance to the imposition of the western model or various forms of dissolution and destruction of traditional life-worlds by the impact of the western civilisation. In this session, we would like to bring together either theoretically informed case studies or empirically based theoretical reflections within this research framework.

37th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology

Stockholm, Sweden, July 5-9, 2005

<http://www.SCASSS.uu.se/iis2005>

Call for session proposals is now ongoing. For information contact Michelle Ariga, Scientific Programme Secretary at michelle.ariga@scasss.uu.se

XV World Congress of the International Association of Sociology

Durban, South Africa, July 23-29, 2006

*****CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS*****

As our Research Committee has increased its membership during the last years, we are now entitled to organise eight sessions in Durban. The RC Board will decide in October 2004 on the session topics and the names of session organisers. You are invited to suggest topics (please send a 200 words abstract in RTF) and names of session organisers until **30th September 2004**. Please don't hesitate to contact Nina Bandelj (nbandelj@uci.edu) or Ulrike Schuerkens (schuerkens.ulrike@caramail.com). We need your assistance for this important meeting and we look forward to reading your proposal.

List of References on our Research Topics to be published on our Website

We ask our members to suggest interesting books or your own publications to be included in a list of references to be published on our website. This would permit interested scholars to have a quick look on our research topics. They may find useful this list of references for teaching or research projects in the field of Social Transformations and Sociology of Development.

Book Reviews of Interest

This is a new section where we present book reviews which may interest our members. The following reviews were prepared by PhD students at the ÉHÉSS (Paris). We hope these reviews give you some insights on new topics.

Globalization and the Postcolonial World, Ankie Hoogvelt (2001), Basingstoke: Palgrave, reviewed by Bandhula SAGAR

"Globalization and the postcolonial World" presents a lucid account of the issues, trends and theories in development studies with a special focus on the predicament of the so-called Third World. It outlines the nature, extent and significance of the process of globalisation in the contemporary world economy and analyses its impact and responses in the postcolonial world of sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and South America. Taking a broad historical view from colonial expansion to the present phase of "implosion", the author argues that the effects and the extent of globalisation are complex and uneven. Hoogvelt examines the new global forms of production, exchange and governance and integrates diverse theoretical perspectives in a comprehensive manner.

The book is divided into three parts. In the introduction to part I, the author formulates her basic argument that there is no such thing as a unified methodology or a unitary theory of political economy. Moving away from rigid theoretical frameworks, the author focuses on a set of questions on the relationship between power and wealth, between politics and economics, between states and markets. Depending on how this relationship has been understood and conceptualised, different theories of the world order have been prevalent for a long period of time, namely realism, institutionalism and Marxism/structuralism. The common refrain of these theories was the state-market interaction as the basis of politics and economics in the modern world. A central question was how to grasp, on the one hand, the conflicting logic of an evolving and progressively integrating world market, with, on the other, the continuing division of the political world order into sovereign nation states.

The Marxist structuralist tradition analyses the evolving international state/market relationship in terms of a dialectical development of capitalism in historical phases. Capitalism's internal contradictions were said to be worked out in different phases of expansion with periodic crises, in which state and interstate relations were frequently organised as political structures that maintained the exploitative economic relationship between core and peripheral economics. In the chapters 1, 2 and 3, the author overviews this tradition from a framework provided by Robert Cox's critical theory of historical structures. Each phase of the capitalist expansion is described and theories that evolved in each phase, namely hegemonic, legitimating or counter-hegemonic theories are reviewed. By doing this, the author establishes the historical specificity of theories of imperialism, modernisation and dependency, post-imperialism and world system, and that of the New International Division of Labour.

In chapter 4, part II begins with a statistical sketch of the dialectical development of capitalism over the past two centuries. Here, the author argues that the world trade and capital flows, while at first expanding to embrace ever more areas of the world, have gradually turned into a process of implosion when capital relations became intensified within the core while withdrawing selectively from the periphery. This process culminated in increasing differences in incomes between rich and poor nations. The historically evolved structure of deepening inequality provides the backdrop for an understanding of the present crisis and transformation debate which is discussed in subsequent chapters. Capitalism reached the limits of its expansion by the 1970's. Then, it became an instrument of fundamental change. This change is obvious in a new political economy driven by information technology that characterises the production process and its global reach. In chapter 5, the author discusses the changes in economic production and industrial organisation which are today widely referred to as flexible production. Basing her argument on the theory and research agenda of the Regulation School, the author notes that there is a new techno-economic paradigm that gives a structural direction to the process of social transformations but which requires an appropriate mode of regulation before a new regime of accumulation can be achieved. The author argues that the structural properties of the new techno-economic paradigm indicates a mode of regulation which is likely to be global from the outset.

The global aspect of the process of transformation is discussed in chapters 6 and 7. These chapters also present the crux of Hoogvelt's argument which privileges the sociology of globalisation over the economics of globalisation. The author argues that the reconstitution of the world into a single social space today drives the economics of globalisation even though the preceding period of economic internationalisation has itself created the conditions for the emergence of this single social space. According to the author, the current process of globalisation indicates a "higher" level of intensifying

economic, financial, cultural and social cross-border networks than before. Simultaneously, the process of disintegration is also at work, as old structures of political power and social and economic organisation are being eroded, and new ones are being formed. Herein, according to Hoogvelt lies the root of contemporary crisis and transformation experience. This also indicates the social costs of globalisation whereby large groups of populations, particularly in the Third World, are being expelled from the emerging "thick" network of human, social and economic interactions. In this manner, the author substantiates her main argument that rather than being an expansive process, the present process of globalisation appears to be an imploding or shrinking one.

Part III of the book takes into account the implications of globalisation for the postcolonial world. Notwithstanding the complexity of the term "postcolonial", the concept groups together all former colonial societies, despite the differences in their relation to the global capitalist system, while at the same time offering an entry point for the study of these differences. This entry point is the "aftermath" of the colonial relation and the manner in which this becomes reconstituted and contested in the process of the present transformation of the global political economy. Thus the postcolonial world can be studied as a state of being that is the combined outcome of external pressures (globalisation, the post-cold war order, and so forth) and locally and historically specific characteristics and struggles arising out of the (neo)colonial relation.

Hoogvelt examines four types of postcolonial "conditions" or "situations" or "social formations", each exemplified in one of four world regions, though not necessarily exclusive to it. However, the author has not included China and India which could form very interesting case studies of postcolonialism and globalisation.

The first type of postcolonial condition examined by Hoogvelt is that of "exclusion and anarchy", which is exemplified in sub-Saharan Africa, where all too frequently the patrimonial state form emerging after independence proved too weak to weld a viable political unity or civil society out of the mosaic of ethnic fragments which was a legacy of colonial administrations. The failure to progress from a juridical state to an empirical state derailed to a state led development project. It made countries in Africa vulnerable to the deepening dependency characteristic of the postcolonial period. Globalisation, including structural adjustments imposed since the 1980's, has overwhelmed fragile social and political orders while further peripheralising their economies. The combined result of these external and internal forces manifests itself in a zone of civil collapse, anarchy and instability on the edge of the global system. The author believes that while forms of constructive contests do exist in sub-Saharan Africa, these are not indicative of what is going to happen in the foreseeable future. Rather, other forms of contests, frequently taking the form of resource wars, fragmentation into warlordism, banditry and large scale population displacements are more likely to

characterise the region for some time to come. The author also maintains that in the emerging international practises of conditionality, aid and humanitarian relief, policies of management and entertainment are more discernible than the incorporation of the region in the global economy.

The second postcolonial condition studied by the author is the anti developmentalism of fundamental Islam. Here, the failure of the developmentalist project, coupled with the exclusionary effect of contemporary processes of globalisation, has combined with the spirit of renewal, ever-present within Islam and with its long history of cultural confrontation with the West, to create a different social formation. It is one in which the politics of religious identity and lifestyle has gained pre-eminence in the private domain without, however, yielding a political project in order to (re)create civil society and rearrange state-society relations. According to the author, as long as the state/dominant elites continue to be co-opted into the global elite system, there is neither much hope for constructive rebellion nor any threat to established geopolitical relations.

The third type is represented by East Asia, where the state sponsored development project has succeeded in catapulting the economies of a small number of newly industrialised countries (NICs') into the heartland of the reconstructed global capitalist system. A unique feature of this condition is the post-war constellation of geo-strategic forces which have enabled the emergence of a state apparatus relatively autonomous from civil relations, and hence relatively free to steer an export oriented path to industrialisation at a precise historical juncture when the world capitalist system of production underwent a change. According to the author, the forces of globalisation threaten the drive to maturity of the developmental project (and the social emancipation of the masses), unless this drive becomes anchored in a regional division of labour. However, there are indications that a resurgent Asianization may provide the basis for just such a regionalization .

The fourth and final postcolonial condition is encountered in Latin America. Owing to specific historical reasons, the continent has a long intellectual tradition of absorption, experimentation and revolt against western models of modernity and progress. Hoogvelt argues that this intellectual commitment has helped to politicise the process of impoverishment and exclusion as the counterpart of Latin America's dependent insertion in the world economy. In recent times, as Latin America has become a testing ground for neo-liberal policies of globalisation and privatisation, democracy and the strengthening of civil society have become the arena for intellectual and political renewal.

Hoogvelt's claim that there is no such thing as development studies anymore seems to be premature. Hoogvelt has argued that not only developmentalism were dead but that the disappearance of a definable Third World has caused the disappearance of developmental studies as a discipline. Developmental studies have fragmented and virtually dissolved into area studies, gender studies,

environmental studies and international political economy. The field of developmental studies has not lost its focus by fragmenting into area or gender studies. On the other hand, all these disciplines can significantly contribute to enrich the corpus of development studies.

The importance of this book is based on the fact that it is not just an overview of issues, trends and theories of development, but that it provides a new direction for research and analysis in the field of development studies itself. Hoogvelt's contribution shows the multiplicity within the Third World in order to come to grips with the complex process of globalisation. The tremendous variations in the experience and performance of what once used to be the Third World have given rise to a reorganisation of development studies. Hoogvelt's book forces us to rethink the basic issues and concepts of development studies which were so far either taken for granted or were treated as unitary and immutable categories.

Sections on the new digital economy, the resurgence of the United States after decades of putative relative decline, the question of renewed U.S. dominance in the global system, and the volatility of the global financial markets culminating in the East Asia crisis of 1997 are new in this second edition.

The Political Economy of Globalization, Ngaire Woods (ed.) (2000) Basingstoke: Macmillan, reviewed by LIU Jiali

In the 1990s, "globalisation" has become a particularly fashionable way to analyse changes in the international economy and in world politics. Advances in technology and modern communications are said to have unleashed new contacts and intercourse among peoples, social movements, transnational corporations, and governments. The result is a set of processes, which have affected national and international politics in an extraordinary way. The chapters of this volume debate the nature and implications of this transformation.

The term "political economy" has been used to describe a number of different things in political science and international relations. In this volume, the term is used to describe the changing relationship between political systems (both national and international) and economic forces. In other words, the volume is concerned with how policy-makers are being affected by economic forces, as well as how they themselves affect these forces. In order to understand what is new about globalisation, we carefully need to distinguish two aspects of change: a quantitative dimension and a qualitative one. Quantitatively, globalisation refers to an increase in trade, capital movements, investments and people across borders. Some refer to these new forces as "transnationalism" and

"interdependence". Although trade, capital and the movement of peoples are all assumed to have increased exponentially since early this century, this assumption is misleading.

So what is new about globalisation at the end of the twentieth century? The answer lies in qualitative changes in international politics. Changes in the way people and groups think and identify themselves, and changes in the way states, firms, and other actors perceive and pursue their interests. These changes are highlighted in successive chapters of this book where they are linked to economic trends and specific political phenomena.

This chapter serves to define the core elements of globalisation and to assess critically key presumptions made about its impact. For example, it is widely argued that globalisation is eroding state sovereignty. Yet this chapter suggests that the impact of globalisation differs not just according to the sector of the economy being examined (as this book demonstrates) but also according to the character of each state. Strong states have not only influenced the nature and pace of globalisation but have equally controlled their own integration into the world economy. Their sovereignty may well be qualitatively changing, but it is surely not being eroded. Weak states, by contrast, risk being further weakened by globalisation. At the same time, however, globalisation is opening up new kinds of governance (such as regional institutions) and adding new actors to the process (such as non-governmental organisations, and transnational arbiters and regulators). These developments, which are described in detail in the different chapters of the book, may well be opening up new opportunities as well as challenges to even the weakest states in the system.

Overall the chapters of this book present a measured scepticism, based on both theory and evidence, about simple optimistic or pessimistic accounts of globalisation. Globalisation is not simply an encroachment of markets into the sovereignty of states. States, markets and other actors are involved in a process, which is shaping the nature and pace of globalisation. While some forms of state sovereignty are eroded (such as in respect of formal monetary policy), new arenas of power and competition are opened up. These include regional organisations, international agencies, and competition among currencies. At the same time, globalisation is changing not just what states, firms and people do; it is also changing how they see themselves, and what they want. It is not leading to global convergence: in the case of multinational enterprises firms are making more nuanced and complex calculations about how to organise and where to produce. In the case of peoples, some groups and societies are integrating more closely into a western-defined world; others are defining and promulgating alternative identities and values. In the political realm, while states, firms and other actors lose autonomy in some areas, they are gaining influence in others. Yet the gains and losses are unequally divided among strong and weak states. Internationally, globalisation may well

facilitate yet more political and economic power to be amassed by those states, which have shaped globalisation in the first place - reinforcing their power to regulate its ongoing impact.

LONG, Norman (2001) *Development Sociology: Actors Perspectives*. London and New York: Routledge, reviewed by Cédric Masse

In this book, Norman Long presents the theoretical and methodological foundations of an actor-oriented approach to development. He adopts a social constructionist perspective and shows the significance and usefulness of this type of approach, conceptualised in the 1990s. The author tries to solve the explanatory shortcomings of previous studies based on traditional social development theories, and to explain and to understand social changes and, more broadly, development sociology. In particular, Long criticises the structuralist, institutionalist and political economy theories which dominated development sociology until the mid-1980s. Using empirical surveys and case studies, especially from rural Latin America (Peru and Mexico), the author develops the idea of an actor-oriented approach around key development issues such as commoditisation and commodity values, small-scale enterprise and social capital. He discusses the problems related to knowledge interfaces, networks and power, while looking into the interrelations between globalisation and localisation, on the one hand, and the dynamics of policy discourse and planned intervention, on the other.

The first part defines the theoretical and methodological issues of an actor-oriented approach. The book offers a detailed account of the way in which social actors (local and external actors within particular arenas) compete for resources, meanings, institutional legitimacy and control, all the while describing how these encounters shape and create new social forms.

However, traditional development theories mentioned above have only taken into account the conditions, contexts and external forces of social life. They are not able to analyse the different forms of social transformation and to describe social practices, discourses and perspectives of the various actors involved in development dynamics or processes. By ignoring interactions, negotiations and social struggles that exist between the different actors, they deliberately refuse to consider issues, which are fundamental for development studies, and which help to understand the complexity of social relations.

The responses, strategies and perspectives of different actors towards State policies and interventions are diverse. As soon as external factors are internalised by individuals and groups, these factors may assume different meanings according to people and context, in particular if we consider that different groups and actors may have various interests.

These differences, which are based on strategies of knowledge, power, and practice, cannot be dismissed. Indeed, they show numerous ways which permit to actors to confront similar situations. External factors are incorporated and often substantially transformed by local organisational structures. It is therefore important to examine how particular interventions are modified and even completely transformed by interrelations between local and extra-local structures and processes.

This argument is illustrated in the last two parts by relevant examples, which also serve to criticise existing models (Marxist-Leninist and commoditisation theories) traditionally used by development sociologists. These models tend to ignore the participation of actors “from below” in economic decisions, considering that processes of production are exclusively shaped by external markets, capital and institutions.

Indeed, whatever the degree of commoditisation and control of the State on the production or the functioning of the producers, there always remains some space for the action of local actors. They may organise a “counter-development”, i.e. a development stemming from local actors, proposing solutions which may be combined, mixed or opposed to strategies promoted by state agencies. There is a constant reformulation and transformation of external strategies, allowing for an adaptation to external requirements or constraints, in accordance to the interests and perspectives of the actors.

According to the author, this process of counter-development depends on actors and their local realities; each case must be studied separately, making any general theory impossible. The market and further external forces influence the life of peasants, by opening or restricting their economic choices. By integrating the imposed economic and political rules into their own farming strategies, peasants continue to have some choice.

This study analyses the interface of knowledge and power in the context of globalisation. The process of globalisation is generating a new, heterogeneous social configuration at national, regional and local levels. Global meanings and conditions are translated into localised values and actions, based on local forms of knowledge and organisation: a process of appropriation, recontextualization and social reconstruction takes place, in constant interaction with the wider context.

Concluding on different examples of negotiation among the main actors (peasants, bureaucrats and scientists), the reader discovers the importance of interfaces, i.e. points of intersection or encounter between these actors. This analysis takes into account social practices, strategies, manoeuvres, discourses and struggles on meanings and identities, in order to explain the ways in which knowledge is internalised, externalised and reconstructed.

The book does not only concern sociologists: It should also be read by development theorists, i.e. development anthropologists and economists, as well as by development technicians. The latter include especially NGOs, and national and international public aid agencies. The book presents an original approach, another perspective to explain the complexity of the development process or, more broadly, the organisation and the functioning of the world system. Such an analysis of actors, their interrelations, and the results of these interactions, offers a way to understand the logic of the system. This study identifies both its limits and its contradictions.

An actor-oriented approach underlines the cultural and social changes in a hierarchical world system marked by multiple transformation processes. Understanding the world system requires a comprehension of the articulations between global and local dynamics. In the global context, transformations are important but they can only be explained by the historical context: some elements will change and others not. The anthropologist's work will be to explain hierarchies. Grassroots' work has often been privileged, but today it is essential to link the micro and the macro level. It will then be possible to see the interaction of internal and external elements.

Even if the book only gives examples from Mexico and Peru, it is useful for readers who are interested in problems and realities of Latin America. It opens up new avenues for research and investigations, on the one hand, in various geographical areas, and on the other hand, on different categories of actors at different levels of the development process, i.e. international institutions, for example, the World Bank or the European Commission, foreign and national governments, international and local NGOs, and different grassroots communities. Similar studies should be carried out in other areas of Latin America and in Africa and Asia. Rural communities and local populations need more attention. The proliferation of studies on heterogeneous groups must lead to a comparative analysis and should enrich the scientific debate on current development patterns.

Development Theory. Deconstructions/Reconstructions, Jan Nederveen Pieterse (2001)
London, Thousands Oaks, New Delhi: Sage, reviewed by Diana Toledo Figueroa

Jan Nederveen Pieterse, Associate Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands), offers a well-documented and organised contribution to the development debate in this book. Rather than imposing a particular view about what development should be, Nederveen Pieterse intends to expose different views of the same debate as being equally important elements. He explains development theory as a hybrid of many theories and elements originating from diverse areas of the social sciences. In other words, he defines this "holism" as a systematic recombination of fragments of different theories such as classical political economy, modernism, dependency, neo-liberalism and alternative development (p. 132).

Of particular interest is the author's intention to situate these elements in a realistic dimension. Each of the different elements is at the same time a product of different historical, cultural and class contexts, which define what "improvement" means to different societies. According to the author, knowledge constructs realities, and therefore what it produces is inevitably composed by "ideology, politics and explanation" (p. 3). Development theory acquires, thus, a central role in power dynamics, both in an endogenous and an exogenous context.

Nederveen Pieterse believes that the different perspectives on the best path to follow are not only situated along history, but across it. In the current historical moment, Nederveen Pieterse explains that globalisation and information abundance help non-western societies to have a much louder voice than ever before. On the other hand, facts such as the "Asian Miracle", along with a crisis of modernity in western countries, and the inability of underdeveloped countries to achieve their goals based upon western models, influence the disenchantment with development strategies, such as the Washington Consensus. As the author underlines, the direction once dictated by the West, also known as "mainstream development" is no longer unconditionally accepted (p. 102). Rather its adequacy as applied to the needs of different cultures becomes more and more criticised. As a result, the "mainstream" theory of development has started integrating different views of non-western origins, such as the "alternative development" theory. The cultural perspective is then integrated in the debate and the western view of "one size fits all" is questioned. The debate has become more and more complex; it is no longer just how to achieve growth, but how to decide what type of growth is convenient for different societies. (p. 12).

As the importance of the Washington Consensus is stressed several times in the book, it is rather disappointing that the original agenda has not been listed at all. Nederveen Pieterse writes: "The conjunction of the Washington Consensus and alternative platform is too significant to be merely a matter of ideological manipulation (p. 166). However, he does not cite John Williamson, the author of the term. Despite this minor detail, the book remains an excellent reference in the quest for development strategies.

Recent and New Titles

- Arjomand, Said and Edward A. Tiryakian (eds) (2004) *Rethinking Civilizational Analysis*. London, Thousands Oaks, New Delhi: Sage.
- Arnason, Johann P. (2003) *Civilizations in Dispute*. Leiden: Brill.
- Azoulay, Gérard (2002) *Les théories du développement. Du rattrapage des retards à l'explosion des inégalités*. Presses Universitaires de Rennes.

- Bach, Daniel C. (1998) *Régionalisation, mondialisation et fragmentation en Afrique subsaharienne*. Paris: Karthala.
- Bart, François and Annie Lenoble-Bart (eds.) (2003) *L'Afrique des réseaux et mondialisation*. Paris, Karthala.
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- Diop, Momar-Coumba (2004) *Gouverner le Sénégal. Entre ajustement structurel et développement durable*. Paris: Karthala.
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- Hall, Anthony I. and James Midgley (2004) *Social Policy for Development*. London, Thousands Oaks, New Delhi: Sage.
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- Loimeier, Roman, Dieter Neubert and Cordula Weisskoeppel (eds) (2003) *Globalität im lokalen Kontext. Perspektiven und Konzepte von Handeln in Afrika*. Münster: Lit.
- Mappa, Sophia (ed.) 2003 *La coopération internationale face au libéralisme*. Paris: Karthala.
- Marmorá, Lelio (2002) *Les politiques de migrations internationales*. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Nahavandi, Firouzeh (ed.) (2003) *Repenser le développement et la coopération internationale. État des savoirs universitaires*. Paris: Karthala.
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- Nolan, Riall W. (2002) *Development Anthropology. Encounters in the Real World*. Boulder, Col.: Westview Press.
- PNUD (2003) *Rapport mondial sur le développement humain*. Paris: Economica.

Rodary, Estienne, Christian Castellanet and Georges Rossi (2003) *Conservation de la nature et développement. L'intégration impossible*. Paris: Karthala.

Sachsenmaier, Dominic, Jens Riedel and Shmuel N. Eisenstadt (2002) *Reflections on Multiple Modernities*. Leiden: Brill.

Schuerkens, Ulrike (ed.) (2004) *Social Transformations between Global Forces and Local Life-Worlds*. London, Thousands Oaks, New Delhi: Sage and Double Issue of *Current Sociology*, 51, 3/4.

Tommasoli, Massimo (2004) *Développement participatif. Analyse sociale et logiques de planification*. Paris: Karthala.

Wolf, Angelika and Viola Hörbst (eds) (2003) *Medizin und Globalisierung. Universelle Ansprüche - lokale Antworten*. Münster: Lit.

Zdunnek, Gabriele (2003) *"Her-stories". Transformationsprozesse und geschlechts-spezifische Differenzierung in Nigeria und Ghana*. Münster: Lit.

News from our Members

We would be delighted to receive some information on your current research projects, recent publications and teaching experiences in order to inform other members of RC 09 and to offer opportunities for scientific collaborations.

If this Newsletter was of some interest to you and if you wish to contribute to our activities, please contact us by sending us some information on yourself, such as your scholarly interests, your university affiliation and titles of recent publications.

We kindly invite all interested scholars to join our RC 09. The membership fees for a four years period are 10 \$ US for countries of category C, 25 \$ US for countries of category A and B and thus really low in comparison to some other RCs. You may pay for two or four years. As a member, you will receive our Newsletter and you can participate in our activities during conferences. Furthermore, you will benefit from our network on the topic of *Social Transformations and Sociology of Development*.

We wish to all of you an enjoyable summer. We look forward to reading you soon.

This Newsletter was prepared by Ulrike Schuerkens and Nina Bandelj.