



## **NEWSLETTER WINTER 2005**

### ***RC 09***

#### ***SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT***

Welcome to 2005! With this Newsletter we bring you information about a call for papers and research publications of interest to scholars of social transformations and sociology of development. We are very pleased to see that interest in these issues is growing as is indicated by the increased number of RC09 members. We are also certain that each of you has colleagues who share these interests but are not yet part of the RC09 community. Encourage them to join us! With more members we achieve greater visibility in the discipline and can obtain more resources for projects and conferences.

We also strongly encourage you to submit your news, short scholarly reflections, or information about events, or any other comments or suggestions for the next issue of our Newsletter (please send them to Nina Bandelj, RC 09 Secretary: [nbandelj@uci.edu](mailto:nbandelj@uci.edu)).

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology Durban, South Africa, 23-29 July, 2006 *The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World***

We are very pleased that RC09 will organize six paper sessions at the Durban Congress. Please see the session descriptions below. Interested presenters should send paper proposals directly to session chairs before **October 1, 2005**.

Contributions are invited to the following sessions:

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#### **Session 1**

#### ***Social transformations in Central and Eastern Europe: Taking stock of developments after 1989***

**Organizer: Nina Bandelj, University California, Irvine, USA, [nbandelj@uci.edu](mailto:nbandelj@uci.edu)**

The fall of the Berlin Wall symbolized what may be the most dramatic and revolutionary transformation of political and economic institutions in the twentieth century - the collapse of communist regimes and state-socialist economies. Since 1989 societies in Central and Eastern Europe have quickly began the process of liberalization, democratization and integration in global exchanges. Marking a significant phase of transition, in May 2004 ten Central and East European states joined the European Union.

After more than 15 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, how can we take stock of the social transformations in the post-socialist Central and East Europe? How have these states developed politically, economically and socially? Along these lines, how do the different Central and East European states compare to each other? While some scholars argue that economic liberalization impacts states in uniform ways, others have documented divergence in development within the region and varieties of Central and East European capitalism. In terms of democratization, what progress have the states in the region made since the fall of the Berlin Wall? Why have some been able to democratize faster than other? In terms of social welfare, how do citizens of Central and Eastern Europe fare today in comparison to the socialist times?.

Moreover, how does the Central and East European region compare to other world regions, such as Asia or Latin America? Compared to development in other regions, in Central and Eastern Europe the processes of privatization, democratization and globalization occurred simultaneously. How has this regional specificity shaped the post-socialist transformations? While most of the studies on development have focused on single world regions, comparisons across regions present an opportunity to assess the generalizability of theoretical arguments.

This session welcomes papers that address the above questions, and engage in empirical and theoretical advances on the social transformations and development in Central and Eastern Europe. While single country cases will be considered, preference will be given to comparative studies, either within the region or across regions.

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## **Session 2**

### ***The state and hunger in an uneven world***

**Organizers: Mustafa Koc, Ryerson University, Canada, [mkoc@ryerson.ca](mailto:mkoc@ryerson.ca) and Habibul H. Khondker, National University of Singapore, Singapore, [habib@nus.edu.sg](mailto:habib@nus.edu.sg)**

In September 2000, at the time of United Nations Millennium Summit, 1.2 billion people still lived on less than US\$1 a day. World leaders recognized the gravity of the problem of hunger and extreme poverty and wanted to cut the number of hungry people in half by 2015. In 1996 at the World Food Summit (WFS) in Rome, world leaders admitted that approximately 800 million people around the world did not have enough to feed themselves and their families. A commitment was made to reduce the number of hungry people in half by 2015. Yet, only six years after the WFS, it was obvious that 2015 target was unattainable. This failure to significantly reduce hunger signals the inadequacy of the current policies applied by many institutions and governments in guaranteeing this basic human right to food. Famines and other "manmade" disasters of forced migrations, wars, civil wars, or trade sanctions continue to kill millions of innocent people, mostly children. If serious action is not undertaken, we are headed for a major food security crisis - both in the North and the South.

The main concerns of this session will be to explore the role of the state in mitigating hunger or, in some cases, creating hunger through its failed and misguided policies. How in history over the years various states have been successful in combating the problem of hunger and how other states remain vulnerable. What are the social, political and economic dynamics at work? What is the role of the global forces in enabling the state or weakening the capacities of the state in dealing with the problem of hunger? What are the lessons of history? This session invites contributions to discuss causes and consequences of hunger and the role of the state in managing the problem in an increasingly uneven world.

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## **Session 3**

### ***Transnational migration and development in the global South***

**Organizer: Eric Popkin, Colorado College, USA, [epopkin@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:epopkin@coloradocollege.edu)**

In this session, we are looking for papers that address the issue of transnational migration and development in the global south. Scholarly interest in transnational migration has emerged in the context of the massive population movements that have occurred in the current era of globalization. Changes in the international economy and the diffusion of space-time compressing technologies have created the conditions that intensify exchanges between immigrants and their places of origin. Immigrants pursue either individual or collective relationships with the country of origin for a variety of reasons including the difficulty in obtaining economic security in either sending and receiving societies, racial and ethnic discrimination in the host society, and/or a desire to assist in the socioeconomic development of communities of origin often neglected by home governments or destroyed by civil conflict.

Migrant-led transnationalism includes maintaining kinship and social networks across borders, sending or receiving remittances, and the establishment of hometown associations that engage in collective community projects in the home region among other activities. The elaborate linkages between migrant sending and receiving areas that emerge lead some analysts to conceive of transnational migration as a phenomenon that may go beyond individuals and households, incorporating entire communities (migrant and non-migrant members) into the globalization process. Some analysts contend that transnational communities have three novel features: they are a product of global capitalism due to the labor demand from the north, they constitute a phenomenon distinct from the traditional patterns of immigrant adaptation, and they offer more opportunities for popular initiatives.

For this session, we would like to encourage theoretically orientated case studies or theoretical reflections based on empirical facts linked to the issue of transnational migration and development. In particular we are interested in papers that address the issue of remittances, both individual and collective remittances, and what they mean for the transformation of the migrant sending communities (political, social, and/or

economic). We also are interested in submissions that consider how remittances shape/influence local (municipal, regional, provincial) planning processes and how state institutions attempt to mediate in the expenditure of remittances in specific localities. Finally, papers could consider how hometown associations relate to their interlocutors in the migrant sending communities (local elites, community organizations, local government officials, etc.).

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#### **Session 4**

##### ***Social transformations, gender and migration***

**Organizer: Ulrike Schuerkens, EHESS, Paris, France,  
ulrike.schuerkens@caramail.com**

Transnational migrations in the South and in the North lead to a transformation of gender relations. The uneven economic development world-wide has not only initiated new migration movements and patterns but has also led to a feminisation of migrations, which has resulted in renegotiations of the existing gender order. The successful utilisation of global markets by migrants results in new gendered labour markets and struggles over the meaning of gender relations. Local practices are contested by mobile women who try to perpetuate differences they have experienced abroad. Women move regardless of politics and discourses in countries of origin and thus initiate transformations of gender and power relations.

For this session, we look for empirical case studies grounded on theoretical reflections from countries of the North and the South demonstrating the transformation of gender relations by migration processes influenced by multi-ethnic encounters. Questions which should be asked are: What are the macro-political frameworks and the micro-political interaction processes that contribute to changing gender relations of minority and majority populations? What are the elements that influence the changes of gender relations from groups of different origins? We do not expect "easy" answers, but perspectives which include subject-oriented and structure-oriented patterns.

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#### **Session 5**

##### ***Global modernity, civilisations and local life-worlds***

**Organizers: Ulrike Schuerkens, EHESS, Paris, France,  
ulrike.schuerkens@caramail.com and Willfried Spohn, Free University Berlin,  
Germany, willfried.spohn@iue.it**

Since the end of the global competition, characteristic of the era of the cold war, processes of international competition have played a lesser role as democratic institutions in the South are often weakly developed and elites tend to confront each other on ethnic grounds, which often occasion violent conflicts. Nevertheless, with the increase of global modernity during the last decade, the breakdown of most of the communist states and the spread of the neo-liberal credo, the notion of competition began to be discussed again in our field. The discussion has tackled the issue whether the economic ideology brought about by global modernity would have an impact on countries socially and culturally very different from the western core countries. As there seems to be no real alternative to the western economic competition ideal, economists and sociologists have asked whether the notion of competition could be integrated into the social, cultural and economic systems of Asia, Latin America and Africa. The answer has largely depended on the social structure of societies in different world regions.

It seems now obvious that some cultures are better positioned to become active participants in the global modernity than others. Perhaps, such positioning would be better conceptualised by the notion of cultural life-worlds than mere socio-economic and political constellations. If so, then a reflection on the cultural construction of social life-worlds in global modernity seems to be a precondition for the analysis of discourses on economic globalisation in non-European civilisations. Global players exert pressures for adaptation and efficiency on local and regional cultures. The world market defined by competitive capitalism, the importance of private propriety and the virtue of individualism have become the dominant world system, introduced by colonial and postcolonial processes in non-western societies during the last centuries and in more recent years. Civilisations have become defined by their adaptability to global economic processes. The culture as a place for capital investment and capital use has become the criterion of

selection. According to global players, a competition on social systems, which permit the highest profits, has become established around cultural values. Societies which are capable to learn receive higher scores than societies, which resist to changes required by the capitalist logic.

This approach, which intends to reunite economic interests, cultural preferences and political institutions in one logical system permits to analyse why some societies are more able to confront world market conditions than others. Within this theoretical framework, we look for empirical case studies of different civilisations or cultures describing situations of intertwining of local life-worlds and global economic modernity. Papers may also address elites' tendencies to change or to avoid changes of local social institutions in order to render them more acceptable to global modernity.

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## **Session 6**

### ***Global governance, multiple modernities and local politics: Perspectives from the post-colonial world***

**Organizer: Willfried Spohn, Free University Berlin, Germany,  
willfried.spohn@iue.it**

Most approaches in globalization theory and research focus on the multi-dimensional globalization processes from a Western or Eurocentric perspective. Particularly, the sociological analysis of economic and political globalization processes concentrates on Western dominated global and trans-national networks, institutions and actors, less so sociological, anthropological and ethnographic research on cultural globalization. This session intends to look at globalization processes from the perspective of non-European and non-Western civilizations, societies and regions. A particular focus is on global and transnational political and legal institutions, organizations and actors, their impact on nation-states and local life-worlds in post-colonial societies and the socio-cultural and political adaptation and reaction to them in terms of competition, cooperation and conflict.

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**\*\*\*FORTHCOMING RC09 PUBLICATION\*\*\***

**Ulrike Schuerkens (ed.) Transnational Migrations and Social Transformations.**  
*Current Sociology*, 2005. Monograph issue 2.

*Abstracts of the articles:*

**Ulrike Schuerkens**

**Transnational Migrations and Social Transformations: A Theoretical Perspective**

In this article, the author tackles the combined effects of transnational migrations and social transformations. During the last years, it became more and more obvious that globalization characterizes more and more transnational 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 result 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. 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 change. Since several 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 do not change only migrants themselves, but whole societies and their relations with each other.

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**Dumitru Sandu**

**Emerging transnational Migration from Romanian Villages**

This article presents the first results of a community census (December 2001) on temporary external migration at the level of all Romanian villages. Local key informants filled in the questionnaire on the international temporary migration and its socio-demographic profile. Function of the key destinations, the Romanian villages cluster in some basic external migration fields: Germany, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain and France. At a more detailed level, considering multiple destinations, those fields break into 15 regions of migration. Village level analysis of the phenomenon indicates a strong selectivity of migration depending of village characteristics. About 4% of the total villages of the country accounts for more than 60% of the total return migration from abroad. These are villages of high probability of transnationalism. The innovative circular or transnational migration is proved to be connected with basic characteristics of the migration system of the country: the villages, where village to city commuting declined sharply after 1990 and where return migration from cities was high, recorded a higher propensity for circular migration abroad. A set of about 2700 villages of high migration prevalence is described as 'probable transnational communities'.

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**Tatiana N. Yudina**

### **Labour Migration into Russia: The Response of State and Society**

The problems connected with the presence of international migrants in the Russian labour market are analyzed in this article. Sociological studies reveal the role of foreign citizens in the labour market structure of the capital of Russia -- Moscow; the effect of the presence of migrants on the employment of Muscovites is estimated; the particular character of the main flows of migrants is described and the effect on different spheres of the Moscow population's activities is determined; an estimate of migrants' social protection is given; Muscovites' relations to international migrants of different social groups are defined; the causes of these relations are determined; measures regulating the flows of labour migrants are developed.

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**Susanne Binder and Jelena Tosic**

### **Refugees as a Particular Form of Transnational Migrations and Social Transformations: Socio-anthropological and Gender Aspects**

Refugee studies represent a special focus of the research on migration and globalization. Social and cultural anthropology can provide significant insights in refugee studies by concentrating on local, trans-national and cultural interrelations. Social sciences and, in particular, social and cultural anthropology help deconstructing the image of refugees as helpless and passive aid receivers. Rather it points out their potential active role and its significance for coping with the consequences of the flight experience. This article shows relevant results of contemporary research focusing on two aspects: the anthropological approach to identity construction and the gender sensitive approach in refugee studies. Gender specific reasons for flight, as well as the discussion on the recognition of gender specific forms of persecution are explained. Finally, gender specific aspects of refugee studies are exemplified with a case study on Bosnian refugees in Austria.

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**Petra Dannecker**

### **Transnational Migration and the Transformation of Gender Relations: The Case of Bangladeshi Labour Migrants**

The article discusses the transformations of gender relations due to transnational migration between Bangladesh and Malaysia. It is shown that the uneven economic development in Asia during the last decades has not only initiated new migration movements and patterns but has also led to a feminisation of migration, which has resulted in transformations of gender relations. It is argued that the increased migration of Bangladeshi women as temporary labour migrants to Malaysia and the transnational discourses and practices these movements have initiated, are leading to renegotiations and transformations of the existing gender order. Networks and transnational activities of Bangladeshi male migrants are analysed in order to show, firstly, that transnational spaces are gendered and, secondly, how transnational influences are changing power and gender relations. The successful exploitation of global markets by female migrants has not only resulted in new migration patterns and new gendered labour markets but has become an important agent for transformations of gender relations.

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**Patricia Landolt and Wei Wei Da**

### **The Spatially Ruptured Practices of Migrant Families: A Comparison of Immigrants from El Salvador and the People's Republic of China**

This study draws insights from scholarship on immigrant families and transnational migration to examine the multi-local transnational family practices of Salvadoran refugee-migrants in the United States and middle class emigrants from the People's Republic of China (PRC) to Australia. We compare the contexts of exit and reception and state-migrant relations that characterize the two migration flows; explore the elite and popular narratives in which family migration experiences are embedded; and, provide a range of family biographies that capture some of the most emblematic long distance practices and livelihood strategies of transnational families. The paper examines three types of border-crossing family practices including long distance conjugal relations, spatial ruptures in mother-child relationships, and care giving arrangements that involve shuttling non-working

age members of the family across locations. PRC and Salvadoran migrant families navigate dramatically different institutional and discursive landscapes, which impacts the character and quality of the resources they bring to bear on their long distance family arrangements. The findings challenge existing conceptualizations of the immigrant family, gender role performances and gender ideologies, highlight the gendered aspects of the institutional landscapes and discursive narratives in which the livelihood and mobility strategies and long distance practices of immigrant families are embedded.

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**Eric Popkin**

**The Emergence of Pan-Mayan Ethnicity in the Guatemalan Transnational Community Linking Santa Eulalia and Los Angeles**

This article explores how the migratory process shapes ethnicity in transnational communities through an examination of the Guatemalan Mayan (Kanjolal) migrant circuit that links Santa Eulalia and Los Angeles. Relying on extensive qualitative fieldwork in both locales and a household census carried out in Santa Eulalia, this study concludes that transnational migration exacerbates class and social stratification in the sending community as immigrants in the host society confront adverse conditions that include racial/ethnic discrimination, restrictive United States immigration policies, and an increasingly competitive secondary sector labor market. These conditions generate new forms of resistance reflected in the emergence of Pan-Mayan community organizations at both ends of the migrant circuit. The case study demonstrates how ethnicity becomes the cohesive force that empowers dislocated indigenous workers on both sides of the US-Mexican border enabling them to feel a sense of common purpose in the face of challenging economic and social conditions.

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**Anja Weiss**

**The Transnationalization of Social Inequality: Conceptualizing Social Positions on a World Scale**

The sociology of inequality has focused on the nation state frame. The article argues that methodological nationalism is increasingly inadequate in a globalizing world. Migrant populations cannot be located in only one nation state. Labour markets, cultural capital and reciprocal relations have partly become transnational. Both issues can be integrated into a theory of social inequality, if spatial relations are given adequate consideration. The opportunities of actors and the value of resources must be determined in relation to various national and transnational social spaces. Social positions in a world system cannot be characterized only by resource value. They are also structured by spatial autonomy and the quality of the spaces to which (migrant) populations have access. The argument is exemplified by a discussion of highly skilled migrants who possess cultural capital, which is transnationally recognized. An analysis of their cultural capital shows how transnational and location specific cultural capital interrelate.

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**\*\*\*NEW TITLES OF INTEREST\*\*\***

Autrepart, "Diasporas, développements et mondialisations", 22, 2002.

ATTAC, 2004, *Le développement a-t-il un avenir? Pour une société économe et solidaire*, Paris, Mille et une nuits.

Berger, Peter and Samuel P. Huntington (eds.), 2002, *Many Globalizations. Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World*. Oxford etc., Oxford University Press.

Diop, M.-C. (ed.) , 2002, *La société sénégalaise entre le local et le global*, Khartala, Paris.

Haugerud, Angelique, M. Priscilla Stone and Peter D. Little (eds.), 2000, *Commodities and Globalization. Anthropological Perspectives*. Lanham, Mad., Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Journall des anthropologues, "Globalisation", Tome 1, Effets de marché et migrations, 96-97, 2004.

Lewellen, Ted C., 2002, *The Anthropology of Globalization. Cultural Anthropology Enters the 21st Century*, Westport, Conn., Greenwood Press.

Mozaffari, Mehdi (ed.), 2002, *Globalization and Civilisations*. London and New York, Routledge.

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Pieterse, Jan Nederveen, 2004, *Globalization and Culture. Global mélange*. Lanham etc., Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Poittier, Johan, Alan Bicker and Paul Sillitoe (eds.), 2003, *Participating in Development. Approaches to Indigenous Knowledge*. London and New York, Routledge.

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Riaz, Hassan (ed.), 2004, *Local and Global: Social transformation in Southeast Asia*. Brill, Leiden.

Schech, Susanne and Jane Haggis, 2000, *Culture and Development. A Critical Introduction*. Oxford, Blackwell.

Tommasoli, M., 2004, *Le développement participatif. Analyse sociale et logiques de planification*. Paris, Karthala.

Tucker, Vincent (ed.), 1997, *Cultural Perspectives on Development*. London and Portland, Or., Frank Cass with EADI, Geneva.

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**\*\*\*RC09 MEMBERSHIP\*\*\***

Please encourage your colleagues and graduate students interested in social transformations and sociology of development to join RC09!

The application form can be found on the International Sociological Association website:  
[http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/memb\\_i/index.htm](http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/memb_i/index.htm)

Membership fee for four years is only \$20, discounted only \$10.

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*This Newsletter was prepared by Ulrike Schuerkens and Nina Bandelj.*

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