International Sociological Association

Research Committee on
Social Transformations and
Sociology of Development
RC-09

RC09 Newsletter Spring 2007

Remarks from the Outgoing RC09 President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing RC09 Board for its steady support of the various activities undertaken during the last four years during my term as President of RC09. In particular, I would like to thank Nina Bandelj, the outgoing secretary and the incoming co-chair for her dedicated work in the Research Committee 09 during the last years. The important increase of our membership (from 25 in 2002 to 125 in 2007) is certainly linked to her intensive activities, her constant presence, and her networking. In the name of the board, I would like to wish her success in her new activity as a co-chair. Willfried Spohn, the outgoing Vice-President has been a highly appreciated support during the last years and I would also like to thank him. Fortunately, he will continue to be a member of the Board of RC09 so that the incoming Board will continue to benefit from his support and counseling.

In our last Newsletter, we had already mentioned the many activities of the last years. Before us, we find another period of four years where the Board will undertake, together with the members, further tasks to strengthen the Research Committee and its scientific endeavors. One of the first tasks of the new Board will be the discussion of the Statutes of RC09 that were adopted in 1996 when RC09 was a small entity. Currently, we face challenges that go very much beyond the content of these Statutes. Obviously, we will respect the democratic tradition of RC09. We will submit the suggested new Statutes to the electronic vote of RC09 members. We hope members will participate in this motion as it is essential that RC09 functions with Statutes adapted to new challenges that could not be imagined in the 1990s.

Another forthcoming event is the Midterm Conference at Barcelona (Spain) in September 2008. We hope you all take the opportunity to present your work and participate in this event that will reunite numerous Research Committees of the International Sociological Association. You will find a call for papers in this newsletter for the eight sessions that RC09 intends to organize. If there are enough participants, the possibility will exist that we increase the number of sessions.

Furthermore, we encourage our members to send us suggestions, information on new titles, book reviews of interest for RC09, information on research projects, networks, grants, etc. that our Secretary can circulate among the members or that we can publish in the Newsletter. In fact, due to the large number of researchers that comprise RC09, we may seek new ways of communication, such as an electronic review that periodically publishes articles, reviews, etc. in our field of interest. The incoming Board will envisage this possibility. We hope that RC09 members will sustain these activities with inputs that may increase their own visibility and that of RC 09. Indeed, an electronic review means a lot of work that can only be done with the support of a huge research network that RC09 now forms.

To conclude, the Board would appreciate receiving your support as RC09 members in the form of submissions to be included in future newsletters. More participation is the first step in toward an electronic review. Enjoy this Newsletter.

—Ulrike Schuerkens

Call for Papers!!

ISA Barcelona Conference RC09 Section

September 5-8, 2008

Submission Deadline: **December 15, 2007**

See page 2 for details

Call for Papers!!
ISA Barcelona Conference
RC09 Section
September 5-8, 2008

Submission Deadline: December 15, 2007

We would like to inform you about the First ISA World Forum of Sociology that will be organized in Barcelona (Spain), September 5-8, 2008. RC 09 will organize its mid-term conference at this occasion and Board members will organize several sessions. We invite our members to submit paper proposals to the organizers of the different sessions. Here is some information on the Conference:

The subject chosen for the general program by ISA is **"Sociological Research and Public Debate"**. Our session proposals refer to relevant issues in the public debate to which our specific topic has contributed in some way and to more particular research interests of RC 09. The Forum will combine a large number of programs about key issues in contemporary society with a common program devoted to questions relevant to the general relationship between sociological research and public debate.

During the next months, Forum registration fees as well as accommodation bookings will be clarified by the ISA. Meanwhile, we need to know if you want to participate in this event. If you wish to present a paper, please send us your proposal with a title and a short description of your suggested paper of about 250 words by December 15, 2007.

Barcelona RC09 Sessions (Descriptions Follow)

- **Transformation of Social Inequality and Globalization**
- **Public Sphere and Capital Cities in Asia: Competing Claims Over Religious and Democratic Space**
- **The Cultural Wealth of Nations**
- **Understanding Postocialist Transformations: The Role of New Actors and New Institutions**
- **The State and Development**
- **Migration and Development in the Global South**
- **Multiple Modernities, Sociology of Development, and Postcolonial Studies**
- **Human Rights Paradigms and Movements: Third World Perspectives and Challenges**

Session 1: Transformations of Social Inequality and Globalization

Organizer: Ulrike Schuerkens, EHESS, France

In development and transformation studies, the classical model of center-periphery is waning, as there are now new forms of global socio-economic inequality between countries of the geographic South and/or Eastern European countries. Some East Asian countries have known in recent decades economic and social developments that are unknown on the African continent. Thus we would like to ask several questions that may be tackled in the abstracts to be submitted for this session.

Does economic globalization lead to more socio-economic inequalities and, if so, at which scales? The answer may depend on local socio-cultural situations, especially if viewed from an historical perspective. Are globalization discourses used in order to justify and uphold inequities between different economies and/or is it possible to avoid inequality at the global scale? Do we need a global policy, which readjusts social and economic inequalities? Or should the market be allowed to balance these processes?

Why does wide inequality between rich and poor countries, between rich and poor people within countries, and between men and women continue despite strategies, resolutions, and policies? Are we currently confronting inequalities linked to the form taken by capitalism in the global era? Authors may consider that the market society is a competitive society with winners and losers at all levels and unless states take actions to influence market outcomes, the increasingly open trade may change the form of inequalities but may not resolve uneven development.

We invite papers that present challenging case studies within the theoretical perspective outlined here and ask authors to discuss the topic in particular geographic regions or by comparing several regions.

Abstracts should be submitted to Ulrike Schuerkens at ulrike.schuerkens@gmail.com.

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Session 2: Public Sphere and Capital Cities in Asia: Competing Claims Over Religious and Democratic Space

Organizers: Emma Porio, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines and Habibul Haque Khondker, Zayed University, UAE

This panel will explore the role of selected capital cities in Asia as an arena for competition between religious use and democratic practice. Historical development of cities and the use of city space provide valuable clue to understanding the

process of democratization in Asia. Historical understanding of city development and the use of public space also provide a glimpse of the colonial articulation.

In the nationalist struggles, cities like Manila and Dhaka played critical roles in developing a public sphere, paving the way for secularism and democratization in the Philippines and Bangladesh respectively. The exploration of the capital city and the public sphere drawing upon the colonial history and its influence on contemporary political developments will add an important and new dimension to the understanding of contemporary debates in Asia with regard to democratization.

The papers in this panel will touch on the public sphere in terms of the layout of public space in so far as the political use of space is concerned with competing classes and political parties as well as religious groups. Tensions between representations of regime power versus representations of democratic power over public spaces will also be explored. Various political regimes have used the national capital region as their platform for articulating representations of power before the nation and the world, while the opposition to hegemonic power has contested the same public space.

The papers in this panel will concentrate on democracy and nationalism in the post-colonial and post-authoritarian era. Various papers and discussions in the panel will also touch on a comparative understanding of Asian city spaces as centers of influence both culturally and economically.

Abstracts should be submitted to Emma Porio at eporio@ateneo.edu and Habibul Haque Khondker at habib.khondker@gmail.com.

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Session 3: The Cultural Wealth of Nations

Organizers: Nina Bandelj, University of California, Irvine, and Frederick Wherry, University of Michigan, USA

When one sees national governments expending resources to market the non-tangible attributes of their countries for the sake of national economic development, one bears witness to the creation and maintenance of that nation's cultural wealth. We consider a country's cultural wealth to include the number and the significance of its world heritage sites, its stock of art and artifacts exhibited in the top international museums of art, and the number of widely recognized international prizes earned by its citizens (among other things).

This session welcomes papers that explore the theoretical and empirical implications of the cultural wealth of nations, as a new approach in the sociology of development. The goal is to understand attempts to generate comparative advantage by virtue of the country's intangible (nearly priceless) quali-

ties. The themes addressed include:

1. The Division of Labor: Where are the hotspots for handicrafts, artwork, music, and dance production? How did this division of cultural production come about?
2. The Social Construction of Cultural Circumstances: How do countries frame their national identities when promoting tourism or when attracting foreign investment? How do these different framings give rise to economic inequalities among nation-states?
3. Pricing Cultural Wealth: Are there forms of cultural wealth that were once "priceless," and if those forms of cultural wealth obtained an economic value, what explains their commodification?
4. Analytic Strategies: What are the most robust methods for establishing the relationships among structural and cultural factors to understand how a country's cultural wealth affects its economic outcomes?

Abstracts should be submitted to Nina Bandelj at nbandelj@uci.edu, and Fredrick Wherry at ffwherry@umich.edu

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Session 4: Understanding Postsocialist Transformations: The Role of New Actors and New Institutions

Organizer: Nina Bandelj, University of California, Irvine, USA

Since 1989, the Central and East European countries and the former Soviet Union have experienced significant change. Although many social scientists focus on the gradual nature of transformations and strong path-dependency, it is undeniable that the social, political and economic orders in this region are starkly different from the communist times. This session welcomes papers that investigate the role of new economic, social and political actors in facilitating the postsocialist transformations in East/Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. We are interested in understanding how politics, discourses and legacies shape the new institutions and new (or reconstructed) actors, whose activity constitutes the postsocialist order. We welcome single country studies that specify the detailed mechanisms of change for individual cases or comparative studies that examine cross-national differences in these institutionalization processes.

Abstracts should be submitted to Nina Bandelj at nbandelj@uci.edu.

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Call for Papers Continued...

Session 5: The State and Development

Organizer: Wade Roberts, Colorado College, USA

The role and significance of the state and public institutions in development processes has received considerable and growing attention in the literature over the past two decades. State-building and "good governance" are now primary components of national development projects and the international development paradigm. This session invites papers that examine the multi-faceted relationship between the state and development. Among other topics, papers may address such issues as the causes and impact of failed and weak states, the institutional design of developmental states, and state-building and good governance as development.

Abstracts should be submitted to Wade Roberts at
wroberts@coloradocollege.edu

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Session 6: Migrant Organizations in the Transnational Era

Organizer: Eric Popkin, Colorado College, USA

Scholarly interest in transnational migration has emerged in the context of the massive population movements that have occurred in the current era of globalization. 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.

For this session, we would like to encourage theoretically orientated case studies or theoretical reflections based on empirical facts that focus on the emergence and development of migrant organizations that maintain linkages with their communities of origin. In particular, we are interested in papers that examine the commonalities and differences between migrant associations (either from the same or different national groups)in one host community (country), compare migrant organizations from the same national group in several receiving contexts, or assess how different migrant groups shape socio-economic development processes in one community (country) of origin.

Abstract/papers should be submitted to Eric Popkin at
epopkin@coloradocollege.edu

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Session 7: Multiple Modernities, Sociology of Development, and Postcolonial Studies (*Joint Session with TG02, Historical and Comparative Research*)

Organizers: Ulrike Schuerkens, EHESS and Willfried Spohn, Catholic University of Eichstätt

Sociological approaches to the non-Western world are still moving in separate traditions. The sociology of development is, broadly speaking, based on revised modernization and Marxist approaches, having moved from structural-functional and evolutionist to more agency-oriented forms of neo-modernization and neo-Marxist analysis. Post-colonial studies originated from a postmodernist critique of modernist and Marxist approaches to colonial and post-colonial societies, but having their home more in literary criticism and anthropology than sociology. The multiple modernities perspective has developed as a neo-Weberian alternative to modernist approaches to non Western societies, but more with regard to other world-civilization and world centres rather than peripheral or post-colonial societies.

This session invites theoretical and comparative-historical contributions to discuss and bridge these divides in analysing post-colonial and peripheral societies.

Abstracts should be submitted to Willfried Spohn at
Willfried.Spohn@ku-eichstaett.de and Ulrike Schuerkens at
ulrike.schuerkens@gmail.com.

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Notice: If there are enough abstract submissions, we will be able to organize the following additional session. A final decision on this session will be made in December 2007/January 2008.

Session 8: Human Rights Paradigms and Movements: Third World Perspectives and Challenges

Organizer: Peter Chua, San Jose State University

Papers may examine problems of discourse on universalism/relativism, basic needs (from overcoming poverty to providing shelter and cultural/legal rights to women, sexual minorities, and indigenous groups), civil liberties, and institutional protection in varying Third World and other transforming societies.

Abstracts should be submitted to Peter Chua at
pchua@sjsu.edu

Committees and Groups Participating in the First ISA World Forum of Sociology Barcelona, September 2008

Research Committees

Economy and Society (RC02)
President: Sylvia Walby, University of Lancaster, UK,

Society and Education (RC04)
President: Ari Antikainen, University of Joensuu, Finland

Ethnic, Race and Minority Relations (RC05)
President: Peter Ratcliffe, University of Warwick, UK

Futures Research (RC07)
President: Markus Schulz, New York University, USA

Social Transformations and Sociology of Development (RC09)
Co-Chairs: Nina Bandelj, Univerisy of California, USA
Ulrike M.M. Schuerkens, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France

Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management (RC10)
President: Heinz Suenker, Wuppertal University, Germany

Sociology of Aging (RC11)
President: Sara Arber, University of Surrey, UK

Sociology of Law (RC12)
President: Anne Boigeol, IHTP-CRNS, France

Sociology of Leisure (RC13)
President: Ishwar Modi, University of Rajasthan, India

Sociology of Communication (RC14)
President: Chryssoula Constantopoulou, University of Macedonia, Greece

Sociology of Organizations (RC17)
President: Paul du Gay, Open University, United Kingdom

Political Sociology (RC18)
President: Piero Ignazi, Universitá di Bologna, Italy

Sociology of Regional and Urban Development (RC21)
President: Kuniko Fujita, USA

Sociology of Religion (RC22)
President: Roberto Blancarte Pimentel, Mexico

Science and Technology (RC23)
President: Jaime Jiménez, IIMAS, UNAM, México

Environment and Society (RC24)
President: Raymond Murphy, University of Ottawa

Sociotechnics, Sociological Practice (RC26)
President: Georgeos Tsobanoglou, The Aegean University, Greece

Sociology of Deviance and Social Control (RC29)
President: Biko Agozino, University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Sociology of Work (RC30)
President : Diane Gabrielle Tremblay, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Sociology of Migration (RC31)
President: Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, CERI, France

Sociology of Women in Society (RC32)
Co-Presidents: Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University, USA, Esther Ngan-ling Chow, American University, USA and Evangelia Tastsoglou (Chair for the 2010-2014 term), Saint Mary's University, Canada

Sociology of Youth (RC34)
President: Ngan-Pun Ngai, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Conceptual and Terminological Analysis (RC35)
President: Volker Schmidt, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Alienation Theory (RC36)
President: Lauren Langman, Loyola University, USA

Sociology of Arts (RC37)
President: Jeffrey Halley, University of San Antonio, USA

Biography and Society (RC38)
President: Gabriele Rosenthal, Georg August University of Göttingen, Germany

Sociology of Population (RC41)
President: Encarnación Aracil, Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain

Social Psychology (RC42)
President: Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA

Housing and Built Environment (RC43)
President: W. Dennis Keating, Cleveland State University, USA

Labour Movements (RC44)
President: Robert Lambert, University Western Australia, Australia

Rational Choice (RC45)
President: Yoshimichi Sato, Tohoku University, Japan

Sociology of Social Class Social Movement (RC47)
President: Henri Lustiger Thaler,Ramapo College, USA

Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Class (RC48)
President: Benjamin Tejerina, Universidad del País Vasco, Spain

Mental Health and Illness (RC49)
President: Reinhold Kilian, University of Ulm, Germany

Sociology of Childhood (RC53)
President: Doris Buehler-Niederberger, University of Wuppertal, Germany

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Working Groups

The Body in the Social Sciences (WG03)
President: Bianca Maria Pirani, University of Roma La Sapienza, Italy

Social Indicators (WG06)
President: Heinz-Herbert Noll, ZUMA, Germany

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Thematic Groups

Time Use Research (TG01)
President: Michael Bittman, Australia

Historical and Comparative Sociology (TG02)
President: Willfried Spohn, Free University Berlin, Germany

Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty (TG04)
President: Jens O. Zinn, University of Kent, UK

First ISA World Forum of Sociology
Barcelona, September 2008

Scientific Committee

Michael Burawoy, United States

Manuel Castells, Spain

María Ángeles Durán, Spain

Jan Marie Fritz, United States

Salvador Giner, Spain

Hans Joas, Germany

Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, Israel

Emma Porio, Philippines

Elisa Reis, Brazil

Arturo Rodríguez Morató, Spain (Chair)

Saskia Sassen, United States

Ari Sitas, South Africa

Michael Wieviorka, France

Sergio Zermeño, Mexico

Member News and Publications

- Baber, Zaheer. 2006. *Communalism, Secularism and the Intellectuals*. New Delhi: Three Essays.

- Baber, Zaheer (ed). 2005. *CyberAsia: The Internet and Society in Asia*. Leiden: Brill.

- Bandelj, Nina. (forthcoming). *From Communists to Foreign Capitalists: The Social Foundations of Foreign Direct Investment in Post-socialist Europe.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- Bodemann, Michael (with Gokce Yurdakul, eds). 2006. *Migration, Citizenship, Ethnos.* London-New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Bodemann, Michael. 2006. "'We Don't Want to be the Jews of Tomorrow': Jews and Turks after 9/11." *German Politics and Society*, Vol 79(2).

- Schuerkens, Ulrike. (forthcoming). *Globalization and Transformations of Local Socio-economic Practices*. Routledge.

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Preface *by Ulrike Schuerkens*

1 Transformations of Local Socio-Economic Practices in a Global World: A Theoretical Approach and Some Empirical Evidence from Different World Regions —*by Ulrike Schuerkens*

2 Contradictions of Social Responsibility – A Case Study of German Business Elites and Globalization —*by Peter Imbusch*

3 Negotiating Neo-liberalism: Free-Market Reform in Central and Eastern Europe —*by Nina Bandelj*

4 Mobilizing International Auditing Standards in Arenas of Political and Economic Change in Post-Soviet Russia —*by Andrea Mennicken*

5 China's Response to Globalization: Manufacturing Confucian Values —*by Thierry Pairault*

6 The Export of Cultural Commodities as Impression Management: The Case of Thailand —*by Frederick F. Wherry*

7 Informal and Formal Economy in Caracas: Street Vending and Globalization —*by Mathilde Gauvain*

8 Common roots, shared traits, joint prospects? On the Articulation of Multiple Modernities in Benin and Haiti —*by Dirk Kohnert*

9 Rethinking "Free-Trade" Practices in Contemporary Togo: Women Entrepreneurs in the Globa Textile Trade —*by Nina Sylvanus*

10 Outcomes and Perspectives —*by Ulrike Schuerkens*

RC09 wants to hear from you!

Please submit your news!

Send information you would like to be published in the Newsletter to Wade Roberts at wroberts@coloradocollege.edu

New Titles in the Field

Allen, Michael H. (2006) Globalization, Negotiation, and the Failure of Transformation in South Africa: Revolution at a Bargain? Palgrave MacMillan.

Anders, Aslund (2007) Building Capitalism: the Transformation of the Former Soviet Bloc. Cambridge University Press.

Berthélémy, Jean-Claude and Abdoullah Coulibaly (eds) (2006) Culture et développement en Afrique. L'Harmattan, Paris.

Bindjouli, Alain (2006) L'Afrique noire face aux pièges de la mondialisation. Playdoyer pour une nouvelle politique. L'Harmattan, Paris.

Chataignier, Jean-Marc and Hervé Magro (eds) (2007) États et sociétés fragiles – Entre conflits, reconstruction et développement. Karthala, Paris.

Collectif (2007) Défaire le développement, refaire le monde. Ed. Paragon, Paris.

Coméliau, Christian (eds) (2006) Le défi social du développement: globalisation et inégalités. Karthala, Paris.

Cornu, Marie and Nébila Mezghani (eds) (2005) Intérêt culturel et mondialisation. Les protections nationales. Vol. 2. L'Harmattan, Paris.

Cornwall, Andrea et al. (eds) (2007) Feminisms in Development: Contradictions, Contestations and Challenges. Zed Books.

Crézé, Françoise and Michel Liu (eds) (2006) La recherché-action et les transformations sociales. L'Harmattan, Paris.

Diamond, Jared (2006) Collapse: how Societies choose to fail or succeed. Penguin Books, London.

Durand, Marie-Françoise et al. (2007) Atlas de la mondialisation. Comprendre l'espace mondial contemporain. Presses de Sciences Po, Paris.

England, Kim and Kevin Ward (2007) Neoliberalization: States, Networks, Peoples. Blackwell Publishers.

Galibert, Charlie (2007) L'anthropologie à l'épreuve de la mondialisation. L'Harmattan, Paris.

Guibert, Bernard and Serge Latouche (eds) (2007) Antiproductivisme, altermondialisme, décroissance. Ed. Paragon, Paris.

Guthrie, Doug (2006) China and Globalization: The Social, Economic and Political Transformation of Chinese Society. New York, London, Routledge.

Hannequart, Isabelle (2006) Science et Conscience de la mondialisation. L'Harmattan, Paris.

Homer-Dixon, Thomas (2007) The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization. Island Pr.

Hu, Angang (2006) Economic and Social Transformation in China: Challenges and Opportunities. New York, London, Routledge.

Huang, Chun-Chieh (2006) Taiwan in Transformation, 1895-2005: The Challenge of a New Democracy to an Old Civilization. Transaction Publishers.

Johansson, Thomas (2007) The Transformation of Sexuality: Gender and Identity in Contemporary Youth Culture. Ashgate Pub. Co.

Landau, Alice (2006) La globalisation et les pays en développement. Marginalisation et espoir. L'Harmattan, Paris.

Laurie, Charles L. (2007) Intimate Colonialism: Head, Heart, and Body in West African Development Work. Left Coast Press.

Lee, Ching Kwan (ed.) (2006) Working in China: Ethnographies of Labor and Workplace Transformation. New York, London: Routledge.

Marchal, Roland (2007) Afrique-Asie: Une autre mondialisation? Presses de Sciences Po, Paris.

Melber, Henning (ed.) (2007) Cross-examining Transition in Namibia: Socio-economic and Ideological Transformation since Independence. NAI Publishers.

Merz, Barbara J. et al. (eds) (2007) Diasporas and Development. Harvard University Press.

Ollivro, Jean (2006) Quand la vitesse change le monde: essor de la vitesse et transformation des sociétés. Editions Apogée, Rennes.

Ringmar, Eric (2005) The Mechanics of Modernity in Europe and East Asia: the Institutional Origins of Social Change and Stagnation. Routledge, New York, London.

Robbins, Joel (ed.) (2005) The Making of Global and Local Modernities in Melanesia: Humiliation, Transformation and the Nature of Cultural Change. Ashgate Pub. Co.

Rosa, Hartmut (2005) Beschleunigung: die Veränderung der Zeitstrukturen in der Moderne. Suhrkamp, Frankfurt am Main.

Stromquist, Nelly P. (2006) Feminist Organizations and Social Transformation in Latin America. Paradigm Publ.

Sved, M. H. (2006) Social and Cultural Transformation in India. Anmol.

World Bank (2007) Atlas of Global Development. World Bank Publications.

Zhen-Wei Qiang, Christine (2007) China's Information Revolution: Managing the Economic and Social Transformation. World Bank Publications.

**Know of good books? Let us know. Email suggestions to
wroberts@coloradocollege.edu**

Book Reviews

Alexim, João Carlos. Relaciones de trabajo, empleo y formación profesional. Montevideo: CINTER-FOR/OIT, 2006.

By Tamara Heran Cubillos, PhD student at the EHESS

This review presents some ideas of the book of João Carlos Alexim (Master in Sociology from the *Instituto Universitario de Pesquisas* of Rio de Janeiro) which reflect his trajectory - as Director of the Inter-American Research and Documentation Center on Vocational Training CINTERFOR, Director of the Office of ILO in Brazil, and National Secretary of Labor Relations in Brazil – regarding the strategies of formation, employment, and working relations. The book was published by CINTERFOR, a department of the ILO, created in 1963 in Uruguay in order to promote the development of the educational institutions of workers in the Americas and Spain.

The world of labor is characterized by tensions between its two principal actors: workers and employers. They are opposed in a dialectical confrontation where each one needs and depends on the other. With the Industrial Revolution, the productive process was extended. Labor organizations were modified with the migration of an agricultural labor force towards the factories, and the emergence of a working class. In 1919, the ILO was created, with a tripartite organization that included the participation of governments, employers, and workers in order to pursue the principle of social justice and the improvement of life and labor conditions. Thus, ILO has proposed to the governments international standards of labor that refer mainly to human rights, trade-union freedom, forced labor abolition, struggles against discrimination, and the equality of opportunities.

Trade unions and collective bargaining have been the answers of the labor unions grouped together to represent, to promote, and to defend their rights vis-à-vis the employers. However, the recent reorganization of the economy made them move back. The current model fits less to a world dominated by business, trade, and the development of new technologies. This model seeks to be flexible in order to answer to a diversity of expectancies of consumers, where the quality of goods and services becomes central. But this flexibility requires juridical free workers, able to position themselves in the labor market. On the one hand, quality would imply a responsible and competent labor force involved in the company, and on the other hand, it would comprise a company, taking care of the role and rights of the workers.

Another issue tackled in this book is competition inside the market that is a usual source of discrimination. It is a place of selection where several elements come into play: parents, friends, beliefs, values, practices, ethnic differences, physical difficulties, etc. Against these factors that may be declared as selective, the concept of *Policies of Diversity* has emerged. These are initiatives and activities, which promote the differences in a positive way. This process may trigger social integration, but may also benefit to the companies and may signify a democratization of the access to the labor market.

Vocational Training seeks to offer solutions to the problems emanating from the transformation of the economic processes, from the difficulties and the slowness of creating jobs. It answers both to a competitive and demanding economic model and to the requests of the labor market. In this context, several countries have adopted certification systems regarding labor competencies. A formal title thus depends on a process of education, where the certified competencies correspond to those needed for a particular activity (technical capabilities or qualities related to attitudes).

Alexim underlines that economic forces by themselves will not produce a new model of social justice. According to him, it is the role of the State to defend the public interest in order to ensure a better distribution of incomes. This should provide each citizen with the conditions and opportunities necessary to successfully integrate into a productive activity. The State must take care of a good education, fair and satisfying employment conditions, and must guarantee a social balance.

To guarantee justice and social equity, it is necessary, according to the author, to undertake economic and social negotiations, which lead to a social deal and render possible the creation of relevant public policies. In the same way, the representation of workers in a tripartite administration becomes an instrument of a healthy development and social justice. The world of labor must thus respect the principles of equity, solidarity, and social justice as the foundations for the construction of a really democratic society.

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Perrons, Diane. Globalization and Social Change. Routledge, New York: London, 2004.

by Carolina Hidalgo-Garcia, PhD student at the EHESS

In the era of the new economy, the role of the State and different actors in the international arena has produced changes among societies and spaces. The new organization of the international system is characterized by a constant flow of goods, an exchange of ideas, and a particular labor organization. Nevertheless, this dynamic organization is not homogenized on the globe and among all the populations of the planet. Therefore, entities such as political institutions, firms, localities, and regions have seen an uneven development marked by inequalities and spatial complexity.

According to the author, the neo-liberal model has highly encouraged the emergence of a new form of society, featured by the double tendency of interconnected relations and

sharp fragmentations. Whereas the economy is spreading all over the globe, social groups and traditional social structures are reshaping their opportunities and interests. As female involvement in production and services became a tangible reality, gender status and its definition appeared as one of the focus themes of social awareness. On the one hand, the feminization of labor is an *a priori* for women's empowerment and equality, a condition for their autonomy, and their control of fertility and socialization. On the other hand, women have been abused through sex trafficking, domestic violence, or forced marriages. As we can see, the openness of this new system of given rights and the free market have contributed to the reappearance of archaic regimes that have brought with them the traffic of human beings.

Another consequence of globalization is the establishment of mega-cities and mega-regions. Clusters, as the geographic theory calls them, are interconnected places, which contain economic and political power. Managerial centrality, decision-making institutions, agro-business coordination, industrial density, and an enormous cultural diversity characterize this power. In these areas where the confluence of people (workers/citizens) and business (firms, technical expertise, innovation, finance) are given, the global model reproduces a neo-liberal development. Strategies are calculated and policies are executed in order to promote this new economic development in the whole world.

Critics have sustained that this model, even if it encourages development, triggers social inequalities and segregation as the result of an inherent asymmetry between a continued centralized managerial control and a spatial dispersal of production. In this cycle, a value chain or a commodity chain upsurges an unbalanced distribution where production (workers) will not benefit from the added value but instead the managers (finance, high level professionals, firms) who will concentrate on the output of the production.

Considering the real facts, the virtual has played a deterministic role in the achievement of the New Economy. Global facilities are due to Information and Computing Technologies (ICT), which help to transfer, share, enrich, and reproduce knowledge, opportunities, and productivity. These technologies contribute to a global integration and enlarge the possibilities of production and consumption, which may enable a generalized wellbeing. This process is not automatic or necessarily possible according to the author. Restrained access to the Internet, social class, gender, ethnicity, age, and education create a Digital Divided world, where the global wellbeing is difficult to attain. Small producers or peripheral economies have limited access to information and the Internet, disadvantaging them with regard to super star firms. Those last ones have a network enhanced by medium scale producers and consumers in the periphery. On the other hand, rural regions, poor countries, and poor minorities in rich countries remain marginalized because of their inaccessibility to the information flows, opportunities, and derivate wellbeing.

Neo-liberal theory and thus globalization have produced changes not only in economics and in society but also regarding the power of nation states. Processes as deregulation and privatization have led to a rising flexibility but also an insecure atmosphere for workers and their families. The welfare state has obtained a marginal position on the new agenda. Nowadays, the State shapes and adapts to the context and influences people. Human development in different States is uneven. Development is rebuilt as an outcome of both state policy and the policy of the firms. Through the modeling of development, according to D. Perrons, the States have given up the majority of their responsibilities and powers, so that social sustainability is potentially threatened.

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Baylis, John and S. Smith (eds). *The Globalisation of World Politics***:** *An Introduction to International Relations,* **2005, 3ʳᵈ ed. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 850 p.**

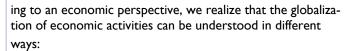By Papa Amadou Sarr, PhD Student, EHESS/Sciences-Po Paris

This book is an edited collection on the globalization of World Politics. The 33 chapters of the book are divided into five sections: Historical context, Theories of World Politics, Structures and Processes, International Issues and Globalization in the Future.

Over the last three decades, the sheer scale and scope of global interconnectedness has become increasingly obvious in every sphere from the economic to the cultural. Globalization has largely been driven by the interests and needs of the developed world according to Grieco and Holmes (1999). Globalization refers to the process of the intensification of economic, political, social, and cultural relations across international boundaries. It seems principally to aim at the homogenization of political and socio-economic institutions across the globe. It deals with the "increasing breakdown of trade barriers and the increasing integration of the world market" (Fafowora, 1998: 5). Globalization can be seen as a development that systematically restructures interactions among nations by breaking down barriers in the areas of culture, commerce, communication, and several other fields. This seems to be a result of its push for free-market economics, liberal democracy, good governance, gender equality, and environmental sustainability among other holistic values for the populations of the member states.

In this review, I aim at analyzing the "myths and realities" of globalization; in other words, the achievement and the failures of this phenomenon. The review is divided in three main parts. The first one is a synopsis of the concept of globalization. In a second step, I will focus on the issues concerned with the interconnectedness of world politics, economics, and culture. To finish, I will outline a possible human face of globalization, known as the alter-globalization movement.

If we look at the pace and expansion of globalization accord-

ing to an economic perspective, we realize that the globalization of economic activities can be understood in different ways:

- Questionable interpretations emphasize that current levels of cross-border trade, money movements, and investment flows are neither new nor as important as some claim.

- Geographical concepts of globalization tackle the proliferation of economic transactions where territorial distances and borders present a limit.

- Numerous states have created special economic zones in order to attract so-called 'global factories', through foreign direct investment (FDI).

The growth of the global dimension of world trade may discourage protectionism.

Global trade and finance have spread unevenly among different regions and different people. Yet trans-border commerce has actually widened material inequalities within and between countries. Communications and IT firms are at the center of the new global information economy. The rise of cheap global communications added new players to the decision-making mix and often forced decisions to be taken more rapidly. Indeed, new communications and information technologies are beginning to enable advances in e-government, e-democracy, and e-participation. But they also empower NGOs, firms, terrorists, fundamentalist religious leaders, extremists of all stripes, and political subversives as well as well-meaning social movements, reformers, and activists. These forces threaten stability.

Global networks have allowed NGOs to increase in number and influence. NGOs sometimes promote positive changes, but may hamper initiatives that governments and firms launch through international institutions. Concerning development and the poverty reduction strategies, in 1945 the USA set up a liberal international economic order, whose institutional pillars were the IMF, the World Bank, and the GATT. Yet governments were responsive to the demands of national security, and embedded liberalism was favored. Progress was achieved up to the 1980s according to the orthodox development criteria of GDP per capita, economic growth, and industrialization. Yet despite apparent successes in conventional terms, there has been an explosive widening of the gap between the richest and poorest 20 per cent of the population of the world; the developing countries as a group entered the 1990s more indebted than the 1980s. Most of the countries of the former Eastern bloc, known as the economies in transition from central planning to free market, have suffered a rapid economic decline in the 1990s. It has then been recognized that economic growth may reduce poverty if it is accompanied by specific economic and social policies.

Scholars still favoring dependency theory see the current situation of the Third World as predictable, arguing that ex-

port oriented, free-market development promoted in the South has increased the wealth of the West and that of Southern elites.

An alternative view of development has emerged, based on the transformation of existing power structures that uphold the status quo. Such structures vary in scope from the global to the local and are often interlinked: for example, the global economy severely disadvantages the poorest 20 per cent of the global population, whilst at a local level access to common resources affects the ability of people to provide for themselves.

The development concept remains essentially unchanged according to the authors of this book. However, the mainstream debate has shifted from growth to sustainable development—the view that current development should not be at the expense of future generations or the natural environment.

Global markets, global technology, global ideas, and global solidarity can surely enrich the lives of people everywhere. The challenge is to ensure that benefits are shared equitably and that the increasing interdependence works for people—not just for profits (cf. UNDP Human Development 2004: 7). This Report argues that globalization is not new, but that the present era of globalization, driven by competitive global markets, is outpacing the governance of markets and the repercussions on people. We thus need a fairer globalization, a human face of globalization, with a redistribution of wealth worldwide. Without being too alarmist, the challenges our globe faces are that of global protests against globalization.

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