Dear colleagues,

The Second ISA Forum is fast approaching. RC09 organizes 15 sessions with some 60 papers presented by colleagues coming from all regions of the world. This conference, as the RC09 midterm conference, provides an excellent opportunity for global discussions on social transformations and the sociology of development. Furthermore, the Forum constitutes an occasion to create collaborative and comparative research projects in dialogues between colleagues coming from all parts of the world and participating in various research groups. I look forward to meeting many of you in Buenos Aires and to renewing our excellent research efforts on common topics. We will have the possibility to meet at the RC09 Cocktail after the Business meeting on Thursday, August 2nd to which you, the RC09 members, are heartily invited.

I would like to raise a second point: The XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, with the title Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology, will take place in Yokohama, Japan from July 13th to July 19th, 2014. The RC09 board is busy reflecting on possible working sessions during this Congress that may foster interesting paper propositions from you, the RC09 members. Please feel free to contact me and to discuss possible topics in the coming months if you would like to participate in the preparation for this event.

Lastly, I would like to thank Kuang-chi Chang for her important contribution as a RC09 secretary from the 2010 Goeteborg Congress to the 2012 Buenos Aires Forum. We will discuss who will be her successor during the Business meeting in Buenos Aires.

I wish you a pleasant summer period for those of you in the geographic north and a pleasant break for those of you in the geographic south.

Best regards,
Ulrike Schuerkens
RC09 President
Schedule of RC09 Sessions in Buenos Aires

**Wednesday, August 1, 2012**

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Social Change, New Technology, and Democratization in the Middle East and North Africa Region
Chair: Habibul H. Khondker

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
Political Inequality Outside of the West. Part I
Session Organizer: Joshua Dubrow

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Socio-Political Orders Beside the State or the Limits of the Leviathan
Session Organizers: Dieter Neubert and Artur Bogner; Chair: Dieter Neubert

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Globalization, Futures of Management, and Resistance Movements. Part I
Chair: Ulrike Schuerkens

**Thursday, August 2, 2012**

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Migration in (Post-) Socialist Societies
Session Organizer: Angelica Wehrli; Chair: Habibul H. Khondker

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
The Cultural Politics of Economic Development
Session Organizer: Frederick Wherry

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Thursday, August 2, 2012 (Continued from page 2)

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Migration and Social Change
Session Organizer: Emma Porio

4:15 PM - 5:45 PM
RC09 Business Meeting
Organizers: Ulrike Schuerkens and Habibul H. Khondker
Cocktail event to follow the RC09 Business Meeting

Friday, August 3, 2012

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Globalization, Futures for Management, and Resistance Movements. Part II
Session Organizers: Markus S. Schulz and Ulrike Schuerkens; Chair: Markus S. Schulz

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
Economic Globalization, Culture, and the Transformation of Management Practices
Session Organizer: Ulrike Schuerkens

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Migration and Development. Part I
Session Organizers: Eric Popkin and Wade Roberts

The Arab Revolution of 2011 in Comparative Perspective
Session Organizer: Said Arjomand

Continued on page 4...
Schedule of RC09 Sessions in Buenos Aires

Friday, August 3, 2012 (Continued from page 3)

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Women, Leisure, and Family in the Age of Transformations
Session Organizers: Ishwar Modi and Evangelia Tastsoglou; Co-chairs: Bula Bhadra, Maria Cristina Tamariz, and Kuang-chi Chang

Saturday, August 4, 2012

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Migration and Development. Part II
Session Organizer: Eric Popkin; Chair: Wade Roberts

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
Networks, Cities Governances, and Global Markets
Session Organizer: Kuang-chi Chang

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Political Inequality Outside of the West. Part II
Session Organizer: Joshua Dubrow
Members’ News and Publications


The book provides an international comparative causal analysis of the variation in political and economic outcomes of 29 post-communist transformations after the first decades, using multi-value qualitative comparative analysis and TOSMANA software. This analysis is grounded in an analytical framework including three 4 values variables for the description of initial conditions: (1) dominant social imaginary orientation (continuational; restitutive; mimetic; innovative); (2) mode of economic transformation (minimal; partial; gradual; shock therapy reforms); (3) mode of political transformation (conservative; reforms from above; revolution from below; "revolution" or pacted democratization). Five dichotomous variables (rational entrepreneurial capitalism; political oligarchic capitalism; state capitalism; liberal democracy; liberal democratic capitalism) are used for the description of early outcomes. The analysis includes a critical revision of received dichotomies (e.g. on gradualism versus shock therapy) and contributes to current debates on the varieties of post-communist capitalism. The derivation of 10 general patterns in post-communist transformation is followed by the in-depth comparative case studies of the transformation in Baltic States and Slovenia, with special consideration given to the possibility of alternatives to the Lithuanian way (e.g. Slovenian way for actual Lithuania and Lithuanian way for actual Slovenia). A systematic and disciplined exploration of the counterfactual scripts of post-communist transformation aided by TOSMANA is the most daring methodological innovation in this book.

For more information, see the book’s website at CEU Press:
http://www.ceupress.com/books/html/OnBalticSloveniaAndAdriaticLithuania.htm


This book originates from a comparative research project involving extensive collection and analysis of primary and secondary materials (scholarly literature, statistical data, and interviews with key actors) on socioeconomic outcomes of the global financial crisis in all major world regions during the last years. Offering analytical and comparative insights at the global level, as well as an assessment of the overall social globalization phenomenon, this book will be useful for scholars, students, NGOs, and policy makers.
Since the birth of Arab Spring in the Middle East, followed by the rise of Occupy Movements against the North American financial powerhouses, and the spread of anti-austerity uprisings across Europe, many commentators and scholars have started to investigate and explain the very new nature of these globalizing yet locally motivated events. However, these movements have not emerged out of blue. They are both new and old, global and local, political and economic. Understanding their complex nature requires new models and theories. It can be reasonably argued that “Alternative Globalizations” by S. A. Hosseini is an outstanding effort among the recent works in this area as it was written and published before the outbreak of these international events, providing both scholars and students of this area with a unique framework for theorizing them. The book anticipated the globalization of a new mode of consciousness underlying these events; a new but quite profound revolutionary shift in many protesters’ political identities and consciousness; and it has explored a significant shift in the way that political ideologies are expected to function in the 21st century.

The book also lays the foundations of a new approach to studying these novel changes—an integrative approach to investigating a new generation of social movements and revolutions in a much more comprehensive way compatible to their complex nature.

The book is now reprinted in paperback with a more affordable price by Routledge. Use the following link to access a flyer offering a 20% discount.
http://globalalternatives.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/alternative-globalizations-flyer.pdf

Reader’s may also be interested in Dr Hosseini’s recent journal articles:


Members’ News and Publications Continued...


*Socialism Vanquished, Socialism Challenged: Eastern Europe and China (1989-2009)* examines how the 1989 collapse of state-sponsored socialism in the former Soviet bloc impacted both Eastern Europe and China over the next two decades. Featuring paired comparisons of the major political, economic, and social changes that occurred in China and the former Soviet bloc, the chapters all share a concern with the fate of the state in the post-socialist era. Contributors elaborate on topics such as civil society before and after 1989; the ways in which the state has—or has not—encouraged new forms of economic behavior; and the state’s role in novel social trends. Through an analysis of the political models and economic patterns that have emerged in this grand project of transition, the work provides a powerful comparative account that will reshape our understanding of the post-1989 era in both Eastern Europe and East Asia.

Reactions to *Socialism Vanquished, Socialism Challenged*

“This splendid volume is a unique contribution to post-communist studies. It is unmatched in the quality of contributors; by the disciplinary depth, which covers anthropology, economics, political science and sociology; and by the geographic scope. It is a must for all those who are interested in the “varieties of capitalism” paradigm. It enriched tremendously my understanding of the diversity of the trajectories out of state socialism and the various ways how capitalism is built from the ruins of socialism.”—Ivan Szelenyi, Yale University and NYU-Abu Dhabi

“The original essays assembled here cover a broad range of issues and problems confronted in departures from state socialism. Collectively, they offer a penetrating comparative study of the politics of market transition in Eastern Europe and China.”—Victor Nee, Frank and Rosa Rhodes Professor of Sociology, Cornell University

“The excellent essays in this volume clearly affirm that History did not end with the "Great Leninist Meltdown" of 1989-91. On the contrary, the transitions that have taken place in the former Soviet bloc countries and in China since the Velvet Revolution comprise a complex mosaic of emergent state forms, state-society relations, and economic institutions. As the distinguished authors convincingly demonstrate, post-Leninism is a path-dependent work in progress, with a plurality of possible outcomes.”—Richard Baum, author of *China Watcher*

“Why has the post-socialist transition taken such different paths in Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, and China? A talented group of experts from multiple disciplines present insights and answers to this vitally important question in *Socialism Vanquished, Socialism Challenged.*”—Martin King Whyte, Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

About the editors

Nina Bandelj is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. Dorothy Solinger is Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine.


The informal economy did not disappear, nor did it decrease. Despite early predictions of its eventual demise, it has not only grown worldwide, but has also emerged in new forms and unexpected places. This book presents some in-depth cases regarding specific informal economic activities in Brazil. Using an ethnographic approach, the author shows the social and economic processes that allow the informal economy to be reproduced, revealing the complex and heterogeneous relations between the formal and the informal parts of economy. Throughout detailed descriptions of informality in action, the book provides interesting starting-points to investigate the renewed dilemmas of the informal economy and its linkages with globalization processes.

Reactions to The Informal Economy and Employment in Brazil: Latin America, Modernization, and Social Changes

“The idea of an informal economy has come a long way since its origins in a dialogue between ethnography and economic analysis four decades ago. This important new Brazilian study brings the debate concerning its relevance to development up-to-date, offering rich ethnography of its own and a penetrating synthesis of theoretical arguments.” -- Keith Hart, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London, United Kingdom

“Coletto revisits the concept of informal economy through a rigorous method and keeps away the temptation to take refuge in the usual clichés in this field of study. This is an indispensable book for those who wish introduce themselves into this concept or review it. It is not just a study on the Brazilian economy, but, essentially, it is a work that focuses the construction of an epistemology that reaffirms the validity of the use of this concept to investigate deeper labor markets and social welfare in their multiple dimensions, political, social, and economic.” -- Maria Cristina Cacciamali, Professor of Economics, University of São Paulo, Brazil

“The Informal Economy and Employment in Brazil is a significant overview of “ways of acting” in the Brazilian informality, focusing the attention on three “typical” categories of informal workers (the garbage collectors, the street vendors, the door-to-door sellers, and the commercial agents). Through a careful use of ethnographic research tools, the book allows a better understanding of the “new” informal economy, analyzing both the main differences compared to the principal forms of “old” informality developed in the past, and important factors of approximation and differentiation in relation to the informal economy that characterizes the more advanced capitalist countries.” -- Ricardo Antunes, Professor of Sociology of Labor, University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil
Journal and Book Reviews


By Abdul Aziz Dembélé, PhD-student, ÉHÉSS

The number 202-203/2011 of the “Cahiers d’études africaines” is the second issue in the journal devoted to the theme of development. Under the title “Les sciences sociales au miroir du développement”, this special issue aims at being part of the multidisciplinary design of the now commonly accepted topic and at the same taking stock of the different social sciences adhering to the development issue. Thus, to better understand the key questions of this special issue, J. Copans and C. Freud invite the reader in the introduction of the special issue to accompany them back in an attempt to historicize development efforts according to five periods that characterize the transition from one period to another for the last 60 years, and in particular, from a (more) centralized form of development to a new one that redefines the role of stakeholders and outlines the notion of global development. Indeed, in the current context largely characterized by globalization (and its crisis), an increasing financial market liberalization and the rise of the humanitarian approach, development, according to the authors, permits more responses to emergencies than major national economic and social policies undertake. Development studies and the social sciences in particular find themselves in a constant movement of rebuilding their topic, a fact that makes development even more complex.

In this sense, the reader can better understand the tentativeness of the investigators of the special issue in regrouping the various items according to three major areas that are all current research topics: first, the consideration of the current configuration as a comprehensive analysis of development; second, the confrontation of different approaches and fields of analysis; and finally, the questioning of approaches and practices on the one hand, and discourses and representations on the other.

The articles written by J. Copans and P. Hugon that make up the first part of the issue challenge the reader by suggesting an epistemological or critical viewpoint on the major disciplines that tackle development. Thus, while J. Copans draws attention to the various adaptations that have permeated the social sciences (not only in the North but also in the South) following multiple contextual developments, P. Hugon shows how development resembles an area of convergence of the disciplines of economics and social anthropology that are traditionally relegated to separate spheres. The second part of this special issue features contributions from C. Freud, C. Baron, E. Peyroux, T. Dahou, A. Gupta, and G. Blundo. These articles mainly focus on the relationship between discourse, representation, and development practices. A multitude of cultural areas and fields of analysis (rural, urban, state and civil society actors), central issues of development, including those related to the community, “unfair” trade, or poverty are tackled. The third section discusses the role of social anthropology and sociology in understanding development practices. In this sense, C. Arditti, G. Pirotte, and P. L. Delville revive the discussion around the following concept: “developed”, “developer”, or “dynamic from within” and “dynamic from outside”, appreciated by defenders of the anthropology of development. Methodological and ethical practices of research are also discussed in the last part of the review. Opposed to growing expertise and consultancy in the fields of development, J.P. Olivier de Sardan, F. Saillant, and B. Niane warn against the consequences of such a phenomenon that would challenge the autonomy of the social sciences. Finally, J. Bouju and L. Vidal analyze the return of anthropological practitioners of development and their approach that addresses imperatives of ethical and methodological order.

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Journal and Book Reviews Continued...

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Reading this special issue of the “Cahiers d’études africaines”, the skeptical scholar will understand the need for rethinking development and the studies devoted to this topic. In other words, development studies cannot only be displayed in a theoretical and empirical manner, as was the case for the period 1960-1990. Today, new actors (NGOs, multinational corporations, local and emerging countries, etc.) make the rules of the “game” much more complex, driving development in a continual movement of deconstruction/reconstruction. The 15 articles gathered in this issue of the journal demonstrate the need of social sciences to invite social anthropology and the sociology of development to reflect on the images of current dynamics.


By Nerih Catik, PhD student, EHESS

In today’s global world, whose main rules are decided by transnational companies and organizations such as the UN, the EU or the G-8, the ability of citizens to participate in these decisions becomes more and more important and constitutes in itself a political challenge. Alter-globalization movements are some of the most influential actors in this context. This book, by Geoffrey Pleyers, examines alter-globalization movements in order to understand their strategies as actors in a global age.

Pleyers is a fellow of the Belgian Foundation for Scientific Research (FNRS) at the University of Louvain, a member of the Centre d’Analyse d’Interventions Sociologiques (EHESS-Paris), and a visiting fellow at the LSE-Global Governance Department [1].

On the basis of extensive field research conducted since 1999 during World Social Forums, international mobilizations, and local movements in Paris, Liège, Mexico, and Buenos Aires, Pleyers presents different ways of action adopted by these activists in order “to create a more democratic, sustainable, and fairer world.” [2]

The book consists of four main parts: the first one presents an historical analysis of the alter-globalization movement. Even if the major critics of the neoliberal ideology and its consequences remain common topics, the author suggests that the alter-globalization movement is not a homogeneous group of activists. With their different perceptions of social change, these activists organize their actions on the basis of different types of organizations and according to two distinct ways: One is centered on subjectivity and creativity, the other on reason and rationality. The second and third parts of the book present these two ways of becoming actors in a global age. The last part discusses the tensions and

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Journal and Book Reviews Continued...

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similarities between them. In a final chapter, the author concludes with the reconfiguration of the alter-globalization movement in the aftermath of the global crisis.

The movement that puts an emphasis on subjectivity is a bottom-up one, which seeks to implement values and alternatives in the daily lives of individuals and local communities against the logics of power and mass consumption of liberal market democracies. The movement that focuses on reason underlines the importance of technical knowledge so that the monopoly of expertise by international institutions in global governance can eventually be broken. Its activists try to elaborate global models that may correct the negative consequences of the neoliberal ideology and discuss them with global decision makers. In contrast, the focus on subjectivity prioritizes change in one’s own life that may then lead to global change. These differences in actions and perceptions of social change reflect the organizational structures of these two movements. Those that focus on reason have implanted a top-down approach and are quite elitist and technocratic. They are in contradiction to the bottom-up vision of the other movement focusing on subjectivity that avoids any kind of delegation in its horizontal, local, and participatory structures.

In addition to a rich theoretical discussion, Pleyers makes the reader understand the activities of these global movements with testimonies from dozens of activists coming from Mexican indigenous communities to Belgian social centers, and from ATTAC intellectuals to alter-activists disturbing international summits. The most interesting part of the book is the last chapter that discusses the transformation of the alter-globalist movements during the recent global financial crisis that gave a particular value to many of the alter-globalist arguments and predictions. Pleyers argues that the movement reconfigured itself by expanding its geographical reach, by focusing on more concrete results (like water management or climate change), and by transforming its structures into more decentralized thematic networks. These findings should open up new topics to scholars and activists of the alter-globalization movement.

New Titles in the Field


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New Titles in the Field

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Look ahead to the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology

Yokohama, Japan
July 13-19, 2014
http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/

Visit the RC09 website at
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