



# International Sociological Association

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

## RC09 Newsletter Winter 2009

### Remarks from the RC09 Chairs

Dear colleagues,

Greetings from RC09: Social Transformations and Sociology of Development! The core of the Newsletter before you provides a program overview of RC09 sessions at the next World Congress of Sociology in Göteborg in 2010. While preparing the Göteborg program, the RC09 Board was convinced that we should try to focus on some of the main sociological questions that the financial crises of the second half of 2008 had forced us to consider. Therefore, we have suggested several session topics, which look for scientific contributions analyzing the current crises but also think about how we could influence policy debates and contribute to the improvement of life conditions in our global world. We are convinced that the social transformations that we have begun to perceive at the end of 2008 form a productive challenge for the research agenda of RC09. We also believe that sociologists are ready to accept this challenge and are well-equipped to study it.

We therefore invite you, RC09 members from all over the world, to apply the tools of social scientific inquiry to what is going on around us and respond to our Göteborg call for paper proposals with contributions reflecting on the current socio-economic issues. We encourage you to focus on concrete situations that can be studied empirically in given groups or regions and reflect on theoretical approaches that help us analyze these changes. We hope that you will find the variety of the RC09 program sessions stimulating and look forward to receiving your proposals.

In this Newsletter, we have also continued with our tradition to provide some reviews on publications in the area of social transformations and sociology of devel-

opment. We are also very pleased to provide a listing of several new publications by RC09 members. We thank those who submitted these and hope to receive more in the future. We are also grateful to Wade Roberts for putting this Newsletter together.

With best wishes, until our next Newsletter issue,

Nina Bandelj and Ulrike Schuerkens  
Co-chairs of RC 09

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## Join us in Göteborg, Sweden for the 2010 ISA World Congress "Sociology on the move"

### See inside for information on RC09's call for papers

# Join us in Göteborg, Sweden in 2010 for the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology

## The theme of the World Congress is “Sociology on the move”

Determinism is dead in the social sciences. Despite a strong interest in social structures, social mechanisms, forms of reproduction, we are all aware that human beings are not completely dominated by them. The world changes, and this change to a large extent depends on human action and imagination.

If sociology is to be useful, it has to contribute to an understanding of change – and it has to change itself. It is on the move and has to be on the move because the world, the societies, collective and individual actors are on the move.

“Sociology on the move” means that our discipline contributes to an understanding of our world by defining new objects of research, devising new approaches and reevaluating its rich heritage. It implies a new openness with regard to other disciplines and to normative questions. The International Sociological Association offers an enormous variety of perspectives – in terms of cultures, gender and generation. They all contribute to the vitality of our discipline.

Michel Wieviorka, ISA President  
Hans Joas, ISA Vice-President, Programme  
Ulla Björnberg, Chair, Local Organizing Committee

## RC09 Call for Papers 2010 World Congress, Göteborg, Sweden

Paper abstracts should be submitted via e-mail to the session organizers indicated for each session.

The deadline for the submission of paper abstracts for all RC09 sessions is **December 15, 2009**.

Any individual may participate in up to two sessions. Once your presentation is approved by the session chair, you must then submit an abstract of your paper on-line (instructions will be made available in due course). Abstracts are only accepted by the system from those who are already registered for the Congress. The deadline for submission of approved abstracts is May 1, 2010.

### Proposed Sessions

#### Session 1: Crisis and social transformations

Chair: Ulrike Schuerkens, Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France, [uschuerkens@gmail.com](mailto:uschuerkens@gmail.com)

This session would like to reunite case studies on the topic of crisis and its recent escalation during the financial crisis of fall 2008 and winter 2008/2009. The aim of the session is to contribute to a widening of the notion of crisis and to possible openings that a theory of social transformations can provide. Scholars are asked to look for possibilities how research on social transformations and the sociology of development can suggest outcomes and possible reactions in a time of crisis. In particular, this session looks for case studies that develop the theoretical thinking on the consequences of the financial crisis in different countries of the North and the South and the particular handling of the crisis in fall 2008 and the following months by politicians, bankers, media, employers, etc.

The aim of the session is to contribute to an ex post analysis of the reactions that would permit a more rational handling of crisis situations in transformations with open becoming. It is suggested that media, politicians, employers, and bankers have been included in a global net of information that has reproduced feelings on the crisis that had not much to do with rational action. In fact, the crisis has a global character but economic, political, and cultural thinking has not yet been prepared to act in a global space on a topic that seems to concern peoples and states on a global scale. Authors should discuss how far the disappearance and/or weakness of the economic thinking on the free market and the then ambiguous economic future let bankers, media, employers, and politicians with few possibilities to act rationally. Papers may address the discussion in the media and the influence of scientists studying economic questions on politicians of

different countries. As economic theory has hardly been universal, papers may address scientific quarrels and the looking for solutions by influential economists. In order to provide significant theoretical and empirical results, authors may compare the crisis of 2008 with other already extensively studied crises, as the financial crisis of the 1930s or the Asian crisis of the 1990s. The overall assumption of the session is that transformation theory can provide rational explanations on the basis of observation, analysis, and interpretation and can thus display possible sociological alternatives to the critical-historical analysis of the present.

#### Session 2: Current social and economic challenges in postsocialist societies

Chair: Nina Bandelj, University of California, USA, [nbandelj@uci.edu](mailto:nbandelj@uci.edu)

Twenty years since the dramatic events of 1989, the time is now ripe to generalize more broadly about the social and economic repercussions of the post-1989 transformations. Specifically, this session invites papers that examine the contemporary social and economic challenges that Central and Eastern European societies have to face. Possible topics include social inequality and poverty, welfare-state transformations, nationalism/ethnicity issues, civil society, second demographic transition, declining health outcomes, and economic challenges exacerbated by the current world-wide economic problems. We invite country case studies or cross-national research comparing several Central and East European countries or employing a cross-regional comparison framework.

#### Session 3: Labour migration, governance and global development

Chair: Habibul Haque Khondker, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, [Habibul.Khondker@zu.ac.ae](mailto:Habibul.Khondker@zu.ac.ae)

Migration of overseas contract workers has been an integral feature of the globalization of the labour process. Despite the involvement of millions of workers both male and female with varied qualifications, this process remains poorly governed in the absence of appropriate institutional frameworks. The neo-liberal ideologues have favoured unregulated movements of people. Many of the governments in the labour-sending countries are moreover either indifferent or lack capacity to deal with this situation which not only has contributed to the victimization of the workers and has put them at a great risk with little or no bargaining power. This often results in workers taking up jobs that do not match their qualifications so that migrant workers get little opportunity for professional development. The papers in this session will examine a variety of cases of overseas contract workers, the social and institutional nexuses that either facilitate or hinder the harmonization and implementation of the policies aimed at the protection of the rights of the workers. Papers should examine the consequences of the temporary

labour migration and explore conditions for the improvement of the governance by facilitating better coordination of all stakeholders, namely, the government of the labour-recipient country, the government of the labour-sending country, the migrant workers, and the civil society organizations working on the migrant workers issues.

#### **Session 4: Labour markets on the move: Out-migration from the Caucasus to the Russian Federation**

Chair: Nikolai Genov, Free University Berlin, Institute of Sociology, genov@zedat.fu-berlin.de

The small Armenian and Georgian societies declined in number by over one million each after 1990. The largest part of this massive emigration was absorbed by the Russian Federation and particularly its capital city, Moscow. What was the interplay of push and pull factors influencing decisions and actions in this process? What are its consequences now and what will they become in the foreseeable future? Answers to these questions are sought for in extended field studies in Armenia, Georgia, and in Moscow in the framework of a research project supported by the Volkswagen Foundation. The guiding idea of the studies concerns the dynamic links between national labour markets in the global movement of labour force. The comparison on the side of the out-migration societies provides evidence for substantial economic, political and cultural local specifics. The study on the spot in the receiving country reveals controversial effects of immigration. The explanatory scheme focuses on the links between structural opportunities and constraints of international migration, on the one side, and on the gains and losses for the involved parties, on the other.

#### **Session 5: Global economic crisis and trans-national migrant communities**

Chair: Eric Popkin, Colorado College, USA, epopkin@coloradocollege.edu.

In this session, we are looking for papers that address how the current global economic crisis shapes the nature of trans-national migration and development in the global South. In particular, we are interested in papers that examine both the flow of remittances (both individual and collective remittances) and the patterns of migration that may have shifted due to global economic constraints. What do these possible changes mean for the transformation of the migrant sending and receiving communities? We are also interested in submissions that consider how the possible decline in remittances shape/influence local (municipal, regional, provincial) planning processes and how state institutions intervene in the expenditure of remittances in specific localities. Finally, papers could consider the extent to which the relationship between immigrant hometown associations and their interlocutors in the migrant sending communities (local elites, community organizations, local government officials, etc.) have been altered in the current economic context.

#### **Session 6: Civil society organizations and development**

Chair: Wade Roberts, Colorado College, USA, wroberts@coloradocollege.edu

Civil society organizations, from international nongovernmental organizations to local community-based organizations, have become central actors in development efforts and processes in recent years. Their expanding presence raises important questions concerning the neo-liberal project and the structure and role of the state in the developing world. This session invites papers that examine the various roles of civil society organizations (CSOs) in development and their relationship to other development actors. Among other topics, papers may address such issues as state-CSO relations, CSOs and the neo-liberal project, and the role of CSOs in advocacy, policy-making, and project implementation.

#### **Session 7: Hiring queues and sourcing sites in the global economy**

Chair: Fredrick Wherry, University of Michigan, USA, ffwherry@umich.edu

Recent work in the sociology of development and in economic sociology have asked why particular locales become favoured sites for foreign direct investment or as sourcing sites for artisanal products when other comparable places offer nearly the same types of investment opportunities or the same types of products for export. Similarly, sociologists studying race, ethnicity, and immigration have long recognized that there exists a hiring queue in some sectors of the economy: holding education, job experience, age, and other relevant factors constant, some ethnic groups are favoured over others for some forms of employment.

Authors should ask some of the following questions: Are there hiring queues based on ethnicity or country-of-origin in globalized markets? If so, how do they work? Are some production sites favoured over others even though there exist production sites in comparable countries? What are the tangible and the intangible components that producers and buyers consider when making decisions about the advantages and disadvantages of the actual location of production? What do these components tell us about the opportunity structure in the global economy?

#### **Session 8: Climate change, governance and the sustainability of cities**

Joint session of RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology  
Chair: Emma Porio, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, eporio@ateneo.edu

The impacts of climate change pose new risks and vulnerabilities

for cities and create a new dimension to the challenges of urban sustainability. While sociologists have traditionally analyzed sustainability threats such as urban poverty, inequality and social exclusion, the impacts of climate change to cities (e.g., sea level rise (SLR) for coastal cities, floods, and increased storms), create a new twist to the analyses and understanding of urban sustainability.

This panel will focus on the social and ecological risks and vulnerabilities of cities (with particular interest on coastal cities) and their social, economic and political adaptations (e.g., governance models) that contribute to urban sustainability. Of particular interest will be papers that propose new concepts and methodologies that address the intersection of social and ecological vulnerabilities, adaptation, resilience, and sustainability of cities.

### **Session 9: The cost of radical social change: Sociological surveys of public opinion in European states of the former Soviet Union**

Co-Chairs: Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Poland [tomescu.i@sociology.osu.edu](mailto:tomescu.i@sociology.osu.edu) and Kazimierz M. Slomczynski, Ohio State University, USA, [slomczynski.i@sociology.osu.edu](mailto:slomczynski.i@sociology.osu.edu)

This session aims to (a) discuss methodology, theory and social problems related to survey research in the post-Soviet countries, and (b) examine specific data sets and evaluate their usefulness for cross-national comparisons. In their article "Representation of Post-Communist European Countries in Cross-National Public Opinion Surveys" published in *Problems of Post-Communism* (2006), Slomczynski and Tomescu-Dubrow found that historical legacies of the communist era and the costs of radical social change tolled heavily on the social science communities in the region. Macro-level factors, economic and political especially, on one hand, but also uneven experience with survey research infrastructure, systematically affected countries' inclusion in cross-national surveys. This article sparked two conferences on post-communist societies: "Sociological Surveys of Public Opinion in Southeast Europe: Cross-National Comparative Studies" supported by the American Council of Learned Societies and hosted by the Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in 2007, and "Sociological Public Opinion Research in Central and Eastern Europe: Historical and Cross-National Research," hosted by IFiS-PAN and held in Warsaw, Poland in 2008. Presentations by representatives from these countries provided the context for articulating the main problems and challenges of sociological public opinion surveys in these post-communist societies. This session seeks empirical papers from established and young up-and-coming scholars from the international academic community interested in the state of public opinion survey research in the European States of the Former Soviet Union.

### **Session 10: Global Economic crisis, varieties of capitalism and social inequality – Theoretical, historical and comparative perspectives**

Joint session of RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development and TG02 Historical and Comparative Research  
Co-Chairs: Ulrike Schuerkens, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France, [uschuerkens@gmail.com](mailto:uschuerkens@gmail.com) and Willfried Spohn, University of Goettingen, Germany, [Willfried.Spohn@sowi.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:Willfried.Spohn@sowi.uni-goettingen.de)

The current global financial and economic crisis has crucial consequences for world capitalism, economic globalization, economic core-periphery relations and the varieties of capitalism in the advanced Global North as well as the peripheral Global South. This joint session intends to analyze and discuss the sociological consequences of the current world crisis on social inequality, industrial relations, labour systems and unemployment in theoretical, historical and comparative perspectives. On the theoretical plane, it is of special interest to discuss the relations between economic globalization, northern and southern varieties of capitalism and national/trans-national forms of social inequality. On the historical-sociological plane, the major focus concentrates on a comparison between the sociological consequences of the Great Depression 1929-32 and the current global economic crisis. And on the comparative level, the contributions focus on the sociological consequences of the current global economic crisis for the varieties of advanced and peripheral societies and regions as well as changing centre-periphery relations. Macro- and micro-sociological contributions are welcome.

### **Session 11: Social transformations and changing leisure patterns**

Joint session of RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development and RC13 Sociology of Leisure  
Co-Chairs: Fredrick Wherry, University of Michigan, USA, [ffwherry@umich.edu](mailto:ffwherry@umich.edu) and Ishwar Modi, University of Rajasthan, India, [iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in](mailto:iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in)

The fast changing socio-economic and political milieus in many continents of the world - e.g. Latin America, Eastern Europe, South Africa, Asia - due to factors like globalization, privatization, colonial heritage, religion, modernization, large scale migrations etc., traditional leisure practices have undergone significant changes and modifications, giving rise to several new/hybrid forms of leisure. The interconnection and mutual impacts of these social transformations and leisure practices require more serious analyses in order to bring out the co-relationship between them. In pursuance of these issues debate and deliberations on such a theme as "Social Transformation and Changing Leisure Patterns" can hardly be overemphasized.

## RC09 Member Publications

**Kim, Taekyoon. 2008. "The Social Construction of Welfare Control: A Sociological Review on State-Voluntary Sector Links in Korea." *International Sociology* 23:819-844.**

It is aimed to enhance the intersection of social policy and historical sociology with the specific emphasis on the historical path-formation of social control for welfare relations between the state and civil society in South Korea. It focuses on the social construction of welfare relations between the state and voluntary associations at different historical junctures in Korea, with particular reference to both the way the state controlled the voluntary sector by revamping institutional adaptation, and the way the voluntary sector developed its strategies in response to state intervention. The obvious lesson from this article is that the historiography of the Korean welfare system can be rewritten by using the changing concept of social control, whose definition varies according to the different magnitude of state control and voluntary reactions, embedded in given historical and political contingencies; the Korean welfare state has experienced shifting frontiers of the welfare mix, which can be identified with four different equilibriums of social control (legitimization, mobilization, cooptation and accommodation).

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**Zaccai, Edwin and Isabelle Haynes. 2008. *La société de consommation face au défi écologique*, La Documentation française, Coll. "Problèmes économiques et sociaux" N°958. <http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/revues-collections/problemes-politiques-sociaux/2008/sommaire954.shtml>**

"Which challenges do ecological limits put on the pursuit of consumption within rich societies, and in the world? What analyses can be made about the ways society react (or not) to these challenges, both at a conceptual level and by way of practical case studies? Are there policies able to cope with these challenges? This new volume gives a collection of about 40 fragments of texts, covering these different topics. It is edited by La Documentation française, a reference largely distributed within institutions, education, and scholars."

**Genov, Nikolai (ed). 2008. *Interethnic Integration in Five European Societies*. Kramer.**

This book is the result of the international research project Comparing Societal Integration of Ethnic Minorities (InterEthno) funded by the INTAS Programme of the European Union.

Present day ethnic relations question the vision of progressing assimilation of ethnic minorities. Neither the development of traditional nor of new minorities follows this pattern any more. The reasons are related to the modern means of transportation and communication, to the porous state borders and the global spread of cultural pluralism and individualization. Democratic governance and constitutional human rights also allow ethnic minorities to resist ethnic assimilation. The ideas about integration of minorities or of multiculturalism offer little theoretical and practical help in this dynamic situation. We witness the turn to interethnic integration in the sense of convergence of values, normative standards and behavioural patterns among ethnic groups. This concept fosters the discourse and policies focusing on full economic, political and social citizenship for representatives of all ethnic groups. The concept implies respect to ethnic diversity and ethnic symbioses together with efforts to institutionalize the mutual enrichment of cultures.

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**Gündüz-Hosgör, A. & J. Smits. 2008. "Variation in Labor Market Participation of Married Women in Turkey." *Women's Studies International Forum* 31:104-117.**

We explore the role of paid work in women's empowerment in Turkey by analyzing the variation in employment status and occupational position of Turkish women according to socio-economic and geographic background characteristics, characteristics of their marriage, and gender role attitudes. Being employed is seen as a major instrument in making women less dependent on their families and freeing them from the suppressing influence of patriarchal ideologies. However, only 35% of married women are gainfully employed and half of them work as (family) farm workers. Women engaged in the formal economy are more highly educated, have husbands with higher occupations, have fewer children, live in the West and urban areas, are less suppressed by their families and have less traditional gender role attitudes. Not speaking Turkish is a major obstacle to economic independency for ethnic women. Findings basically support the U-curve hypothesis which predicts that with increasing modernization female employment first decreases and then increases. However, the effects of modernization are overshadowed by the

strong influence of patriarchal ideology that tends to confine Turkish women to the private domain. The major way out of the web of patriarchal restrictions seems to be via education.

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**Schuerkens, Ulrike. 2008. *Geschichte Afrikas: Eine Einführung*. UTB-Böhlau, Köln, Weimar.**

The book covers the history of Africa from the beginnings until the 21<sup>st</sup> century by using the latest historical research results. The first part of the book discusses three large topics: economy, culture, and religion in order to introduce the reader into some general problems of the African continent. The second part of the book begins with a short overview of early Prehistory (Stone Age), the later Prehistory and Ancient History (Ancient Egypt, Early Christianity, Later Stone Age). After that, U. Schuerkens presents the later Iron Age until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in different African regions (Central Africa, South Africa, East Africa, Northern Africa and West Africa). The beginning of the European imperialism with phenomena such as slavery, commerce, and missions is then tackled. The Conference of Berlin from 1884 to 1885 and the partition of Africa will lead the reader to colonialism. The author tackles topics such as colonial administration, commerce, labor, mining, agriculture, religion. Then, the history of the modern States is presented and, in a last chapter, postcolonial Africa is covered extensively. Topics such as International Cooperation, Non-Governmental Organizations, civil wars, military regimes, debt regime, endemic diseases, globalization, legal problems, refugees, and development are discussed. Moreover, historical sources on Africa are discussed in a separate chapter at the beginning of the book.

The aim of the book is to present long-term historical and cultural processes of the entire African continent so that recent global and local developments of the continent can be understood according to their complex interrelationship and recent historical research. The language of the book is adapted to the general public (students and the wider interested public) and avoids too specialized scientific language.

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**Schuerkens, Ulrike. 2009. "Conflict, Competition, Co-operation in the Sociology of Development and Social Transformations." Pp. 109-123 in *New Handbook in Contemporary International Sociology: Conflict, Competition, Cooperation*, ISA book series, Sage.**

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**Said A. Arjomand Distinguished Service Professor & Director of the Stony Brook Institute for Global Studies, Department of Sociology, State University of New York, Stony Brook.**

Constitutionalism and Political Reconstruction, edited with an introduction, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2007.

Constitutional Politics in the Middle East with special reference to Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, edited with an introduction, Oxford and Portland: Hart Publishing, 2008.

After Khomeini: Iran under his Successors, Oxford University Press, 2009 (in press).

"Islamic Constitutionalism," Annual Review of Law and Social Science, 3 (2007), pp. 115-40.

"The Salience of Political Ethic in the Spread of Persianate Islam," Journal of Persianate Studies, 1.1 (2008), pp. 5-29.

"Legitimacy and Political Organization: Caliphs, Kings and Regimes," in The New Cambridge History of Islam, vol. 4 (R. Irwin, ed.; M. Cook, ed.-in-chief), forthcoming.

"Islamic Resurgence and Its Aftermaths," in The New Cambridge History of Islam, vol. 6 (R. Heffner, ed.; M. Cook, ed.-in-chief), forthcoming.

"Has Iran's Islamic Revolution ended?" Radical History Review, (Summer 2009) (forthcoming).

"The Constitution of Medina: A Socio-legal Interpretation of Muhammad's Acts of Foundation of the *Umma*," International Journal of Middle East Studies, 41.3 (August 2009) (forthcoming)

"Southern Theory: An Illusion," Archives européennes de sociologie/European Journal of Sociology, XLIX.3 (2008), pp. 546-49.

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**Omolaja, M.A. and M. Radovic-Markovic. 2008. *Modern Management: Concepts and Topical Issues*. Salt Lake City, UT: Aardvark Global Publishing.**

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**Bandelj, Nina. 2009. "The Global Economy as Instituted Process: The Case of Central and Eastern Europe." *American Sociological Review* 74:128-149.**

The global economy has become increasingly integrated in recent decades. Economic globalization, however, is not driven simply by investor considerations of economic risk and return but is significantly shaped by the construction of demand for foreign capital by receiving states. In this article, I investigate the integration of Central and Eastern Europe — which was largely closed to global capital prior to the collapse of Communism - into the global economy. I show that host countries signal a demand for foreign capital through formal rules that institutionalize globalization as a desirable development strategy. Moreover, states legitimate this commitment to attracting foreign capital through various informal norms and economic interactions, such as the commitment of the governing elite to foreign direct investment (FDI) and professionalization of FDI activity. The study shows that informal norms and practices, more than formal regulations, determined the size of foreign capital flows into post-socialist countries in the first decade of market reform. The findings point to social, political, and cultural foundations of macro-economic trends, beyond the supply-side considerations of risk and return emphasized in previous research.

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**Roberts, Wade. Forthcoming. "World Society, Family Planning Programs, and the Health of Children." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*.**

Drawing on world society and policy analysis literatures, this study examines the uneven diffusion of family planning programs in the developing world and the subsequent consequences for child well-being. Using a cross-national, quantitative study design, the paper begins by assessing the effect of world society ties on countries' commitment to and capacity for family planning programs. It then examines the impact of such programs have on child health inputs and survival. Results show that world society embeddedness is a robust predictor of countries' capacity for family planning programs. Such program efforts are also shown to have a significant impact on child survival rates, mediated by reduced fertility and higher rates of childhood immunization.

Share your news with  
RC09!

Contact Wade Roberts at  
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## Book Reviews

**Globalisation and Pedagogy. Space, place and identity.** Richard Edwards and Robin Usher, Routledge, London, New York, 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 191 p.

By Daniel Muñoz Farías, Master 2 Student, EHESS, Paris, France

The principal objective of Edwards & Usher's book entitled, "Globalization and Pedagogy: Space, place and identity," is to analyze the role of educational practices within the framework of globalization. By establishing the relationship of these two processes, the authors are able to display the reconfiguration that is lived by education, which cannot be reduced to the class-room environment as the sole legitimate space of educational development. Thus it appears as a wide and complex process that involves a diversity of spaces and scenes of life where it is possible to obtain educative resources.

Organized in eight chapters, the authors develop several themes that are essential for the current analysis of the educational context. Amongst them, there is a salient interest in notions of space, which currently finds itself reconfigured and restructured. These ongoing changes affect space, time, telecommunications, and most noticeably pedagogical practices.

In this sense, the authors are able to tackle the autobiographic conformity where fundamental concepts of class, family, and labor can be found, undergoing several changes. The new generation of knowledge is not limited to the newly institutionalized forms of education, whether it be the university or school education. The appearance of new models of knowledge production is strongly tied to the fragmentation of space and the effects of new technologies, reasons why educational programs need to take on these principles as essential for their progress. This raises the question: How can we constitute community and interaction in these contexts?

The answer can be found within the idea of integrating these new processes to the daily shaping of identities and educational processes. By the advent of new information and communication technologies, communities and networks have been created that orient themselves towards the autobiographical conformation. Increasingly, as a result, people connect via electronic media and no longer the traditional media of geographic proximity.

The appearance of the Internet as a means of communication has turned out to be essential for the development of this process. This development includes the use of "cyberspaces" as a social and cultural environment. New forms of interaction will then be stimulated, that in turn restructure identities and produce in the educational context, new power relations between professors and students, that is to say, new roles in the current pedagogy.

A modern pedagogical reconfiguration can be found in the

following two key concepts: "Diaspora" and "(dis)location". These notions present the characteristics of flexibility and allow for a transcendence of geographical, cultural, and physical barriers. The concept of (dis)location is not a singular or simple space, but rather a constant process of space modification; it is not only a notion of power, of difference, but also of negotiation. On one side, it would be a space that marks the intersections of the contemporary status in terms of people, capital, products, and culture of migration.

Contemporary pedagogy should consider this new idea of space together with the use of new technologies which are denominated by the authors as 'pedagogy and dislocation'. This approach proposes a new type of educational production that does not refer to traditional authority; rather, its clear objective is that of obtaining more creative and flexible pedagogical practices.

This flexibility allows for reflection and a deeper understanding of certain educational transformations, ranging from changes in knowledge to the ways in which it is organized (curriculum), presented (books), delivered (pedagogy), and justified (democracy).

We can thus appreciate the possibility that globalization may be able to answer questions that are central in education, to be found and interpreted in books or mediated by pedagogues who are in charge of maintaining the authenticity of things. This concept facilitates a process of questioning and reflection that allows students not only to continue interpreting meanings but helps them create meaning. It also allows students to determine their own path of study, source of tension in the teacher-student relation and in the fields of academic disciplines, making academia lose its position as the only valid place of knowledge production.

In sum, the authors of the book defend the free construction of knowledge without the framing of a disciplinary community, giving a high importance to an element such as cyberspace, which, according to them, could have the capacity to make equal everyone's voice. It also allows knowledge to be easily disseminated, together with these virtual communities derived from cyberspace, making educational democratization a real possibility where pedagogical spaces function just as families, schools, and the university do, but at the same time becoming open and flexible.

It appears to me that since the authors deal with many concepts and different authors, it is difficult to obtain a new and unique vision of the topic, as any argumentation, if found, is mediated by very diverse discourses. Nonetheless, we are confronted to an interesting book that displays current societies as "multi-contextual". In other words, societies have the possibility to influence several forms of communication. This also allows people to be self-observed. All of this gives us the possibility to establish perspectives that interrelate global and local dimensions, bringing to light the distinct highlights of knowledge production, by constructing a new work program

## Book Reviews Cont...

and a political analysis regarding globalization and its effects that depart from emerging notions which can overcome disciplinary spaces and allow us to be open to diverse possibilities, and certainly, to transcend our own barriers.

**Richard Boyd, Benno Galjart and Tak-Wing NGO (eds.). 2006. Political Conflict and Development in East Asia and Latin America. Routledge Studies in Development and Society. London and New York, 293 p.**  
**By ZULUAGA Ana Maria, Master student at the EHESS**

This book is the result of a research group of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences in 1998-99, called "East Asian and Latin American Developments Compared". It describes the different economic performances of East Asian and Latin American countries in the postwar period.

Six specialists of the research group wrote the book that was edited by Richard Boyd a lecturer in Law and Japanese studies at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, Benno Galjart who is Emeritus Professor of Development sociology at the same university, and Tak-Wing Ngo who is lecturer in Chinese Politics.

This book is an "exercise that contributes to the theorization of the state and the politics of economic exchange from a non-Eurocentric perspective" (5). The authors try to figure out the following enigma: Both regions have started with the same institutional and policy choices after the post-war-period, but East Asia achieved a better economic development and parity income than the Latin American countries. The authors resolve the enigma arguing that even when the policy is the same the "long-run processes of socio-economic change" generate problems of "social conflict and control" (14) and these social problems have had an important impact on development outcomes. This book therefore attributes the success of East Asia and the failure of Latin America to their different policies and institutions.

*Political Conflict and Development in East Asia and Latin America* changes the predominant development theory that less developed countries can be successfully developed with a simple institutional formula directly copied from other countries. The most important contribution of this book to development studies is the importance that it gives to national institutions created by developing countries. This book uses a comparative methodology. Each chapter compares one country from Latin America to another from East Asia. According

to these comparisons, we can understand the emphasis on institutional and cultural foundations for stable economic growth. E.g. Brazil-South Korea: The irony of labor strength and income inequality; South Korea-Chile: Government-business relations and economic performance, showing that a political approach is not always the cause of economic performance; Argentina-Taiwan: Institutional order and social conflicts; the creation of a cartel-rent nexus in Japan and the proliferation of large number of sector cartels in Mexico.

I would like to conclude with two remarks: First, the book has too many introductions and conclusions, one for each chapter and a general introduction and conclusion. We can see some repetition in these parts. Second, this group prepared two other books that were edited by Richard Boyd and Tak-Wing Ngo (2005) *Asian States: Beyond the Development Perspectives*, Routledge Studies in Development and Society, and the second edited by Richard Boyd and Tak-Wing Ngo in 2006, *Boyd and State Marketing in Asia*, Routledge Studies in Development and Society. Both books tackle topics related to Asia. *Political Conflict and Development in East Asia and Latin America* is based on a comparison between East Asia and Latin America but only two of the six participating scholars are experts of Latin American countries (Cristobal Kay and Patricio Silva); the rest are experts on Asia. This makes me think that the book might not be as rigorous as necessary in its Latin American analysis.

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