



Social Transformations and Sociology of Development

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Remarks from RC 09 Co-Presidents, Ulrike Schuerkens and Habibul Khondker

Dear colleagues and friends,

Please, find here the RC 09 Winter Newsletter. We are very grateful to Zophia who has assembled information on the RC 09 sessions in Toronto World Congress and various interesting information received from RC 09 members.

Let us give you some additional information on the Toronto Congress. First of all, RC 09 will organize more than 20 sessions that tackle topics such as inequality, poverty, business and economy, environment and climate, childhood, youth, women, discourse theory, network theory, development theory and development policy,



theory of social change etc. Regions from all over the world will be covered by case studies: Eastern Europe, South Asia, Africa, the Arab States, and the Global South in general. Moreover, there will be an “Authors meet critics” session with books from Ulrike Schuerkens *Social Changes in a Global World* (Sage, 2017) and Victor Roudometof *Glocalization: A Critical Introduction* (Routledge, 2016) discussed by Habibul Khondker, Professor at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE and Chares Demetriou, Senior lecturer at Lund University, Sweden respectively.

We invite you to participate in this major ISA event, the XIXth World Congress that reunites once every four years, sociologists from all over the world. The registration fees for the conference are based on your geographical origin. They are certainly rather high for this event that however takes place in a four year rhythm. Please, register before March 20th, 2018. Deadlines enforced at 24:00 GMT. This date is important, as you will only appear in the official program if you are a registered participant. Please, purchase your ticket for the Farewell Party on Friday, 20th July (21:00 – 23:00) with Canadian regional food and featured entertainment with your registration as tickets will not be available for purchase on-site.

Sessions will be spread over the whole week after the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, 15th July 2018. The last sessions will take place on Saturday morning, 21st July 2018. The RC 09 Business meeting will take place on Tuesday, 17th July 2018 with a Reception after the meeting in a place that will be announced in the RC 09 session room.

Please, check the Visa information page of the ISA for details on visa and access rules: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/visa/>. As these rules have changed please be sure to conform to these rules in time.

The Congress will take place in the Toronto Convention Centre that is a world-class venue located at the heart of Toronto. This location is walking distance from plentiful accommodations and public transit systems.

Plenary sessions will probably be made by a live broadcast with corresponding language subtitles so that anyone in the world with the right equipment would have electronic access.

Air Canada, the official airline for the Congress, is providing varying discounts for travel within Canada and between Canada and international destinations. Discounts are valid on air travel to Toronto with applicable travel starting on **July 7, 2018** and ending on **July 28, 2018**.

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/travel-to-toronto/>

You may find a file on the ISA Toronto website with information on accommodation possibilities.

For information on tourism, please visit [Tourism Toronto's website](#) customized for XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology delegates.

We look forward to meeting you soon in Toronto!

We send you Season's Greetings and wish you all the best for the New Year 2018. It has been a pleasure to work with you this year.

Best regards,

Ulrike Schuerkens
Habibul Khondker
RC 09 Co-Chairs

RC 09 Sessions in the Upcoming ISA World Congress in Toronto, Canada (July 15-21, 2018)

RC09 Business Meeting

The Changing Terrain of Aid, Humanitarianism, and Development

Session Organizer(s):

Suzan ILCAN, suzan.ilcan@uwaterloo.ca, University of Waterloo, Canada

Liam SWISS, lswiss@mun.ca, Memorial University, Canada

Session in English

This panel focuses on the practices of aid, humanitarianism, and development. We welcome papers that address (a) the recent changes to aid, humanitarianism, or development, such as the fragmentation of the aid/humanitarian field; violence against humanitarians/aid workers; formation of new border regimes and humanitarian subjectivities; dangerous migrant journeys and deaths at sea or on land; increased xenophobia and protectionism; and, shrinking support for development and humanitarian assistance, and/or (b) the responses to these changes, including novel forms of/actors involved in development and humanitarian assistance, and the establishment of social collectivities for political change, including community organizations, rights-based associations, and social justice groups. We are interested in papers that examine these issues through a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives, and aim to include a diversity of perspectives and scholars in the discussion. Submissions by scholars from the Global South are especially encouraged.

Development Cooperation's Focus on Childhood. Global Visions and Local Realities

Session Organizer(s):

Doris BUEHLER-NIEDERBERGER, buehler@uni-wuppertal.de, University of Wuppertal, Germany

Session in English

Programs of development cooperation put children in the spotlight and even very young children. But, how do they define children and what is their understanding of good childhood and education? The hypothesis we propose to examine is that the policy for young children is authorized by a discourse on the child's universal and natural body and development. For older children such assumptions of a universal human development seem less explicit. Still, an amazing worldwide similarity of school institutions and education programs remains. This raises another issue: What do these assumptions include and what are their consequences for local societies and for different groups of children in these societies? What kind of multifaceted realities of children's lives are they confronted with, in different regions, according to age and to sex? Are the definitions of childhood(s), as organizations of development implement them, suitable for children living in contexts of poverty, and often enough of power relationships, violence, injustice? What are examples of development cooperation programs attempting to be sensitive to local realities and what are their conditions and outcomes?

Session organizers welcome contributions addressing a wide range of such programs and local realities: proposals on development cooperation's vision of childhood, on Southern childhood(s) and on the potential discrepancy and its effects. Organizers will give special attention to contributions who give insight into (differing) understandings of what might be violence children are experiencing and how shall be dealt with it as well.

Inequality, Labor, and Economic Development during Social Transformations

Session Organizer(s):

Joshua DUBROW, dubrow.2@osu.edu, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Session in English

Over the last thirty years, Europe, North America, and Latin America have seen, to varying forms and extents, major changes to their societies. Within this era, economic inequality has steadily grown within the nations of Europe and North America, while it has declined (though it remains high) within many Latin American countries. Social scientists have documented these changes for thirty years, and in the last decade -- spurred by the Global Economic Crisis of 2008 -- economic inequality has become a hot political issue. How have governments in these regions of the world addressed economic inequality? How has economic inequality influenced political inequality -- defined as structured differences in influence over the decisions made within political processes, and the outcomes of those decisions? What are the consequences of economic and political inequalities for marginalized social and political groups? This session invites papers that explore the nexus of political and economic inequality during periods of intense social transformations over the last thirty years in Europe, North America, and Latin America.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Political Inequality, Economic Inequality, and Social Transformations Since 1989

Session Organizer(s):

Joshua DUBROW, dubrow.2@osu.edu, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Session in English

Over the last thirty years, Europe, North America, and Latin America have seen, to varying forms and extents, major changes to their societies. Within this era, economic inequality has steadily grown within the nations of Europe and North America, while it has declined (though it remains high) within many Latin American countries. Social scientists have documented these changes for thirty years, and in the last decade -- spurred by the Global Economic Crisis of 2008 -- economic inequality has become a hot political issue. How have governments in these regions of the world addressed economic inequality? How has economic inequality influenced political inequality -- defined as structured differences in influence over the decisions made within political processes, and the outcomes of those decisions? What are the consequences of economic and political inequalities for marginalized social and political groups? This session invites papers that explore the nexus of political and economic inequality during periods of intense social transformations over the last thirty years in Europe, North America, and Latin America.

Business Enterprises and Development: Qualitative Approaches and Case Studies II

Session Organizer(s):

Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, uschuerkens@gmail.com, University Rennes 2 - LiRIS EA 7481, France
Michel VILLETTE, michel.villette@icloud.com, AgroParisTech, France

Session in English

In this session, we seek to explore with evidence the type of management approaches that are practiced in selected countries amidst an increasing but insufficient interpretation of the current situation. There is a need for a clear understanding of how local and international organizations are managed because: i) there is an apparent gap in the literature on management and leadership as most of the recent studies are limited in scope and unconvincing in their theoretical and methodological approaches; ii) decision makers in general and managers in particular of both public and private sector organisations have encountered increasing challenges of having to balance between the demands of a globalising power of business and the requirements of a localising power of culture and politics. The effects of globalisation have been felt throughout the world especially after the 2008 financial crisis and the recent decline in oil prices and revenues from tourism and the complexity of the eminent economic, social and political changes that have very often resulted in contradictory and problematic outcomes, especially where opportunities for development, in terms of labour and raw materials, are available but not properly used. The consequence of this lack of understanding of management is a mere concentration on trying to tackle the symptoms of problems not the roots of the problem.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Coercion, Feminism, and Entrepreneurship in Development

Session Organizer(s):

Samuel COHN, s-cohn@tamu.edu, Texas A and M University, USA

Session in English

This is an open session for any papers that contain innovative new theories or important new findings in development sociology. Presenters may come from any theoretical tradition, use any methodology - either quantitative or qualitative, may study any region of the world and may consider any time period including the present day. The session is a forum to present new work that is exciting, stimulating and represents a significant advance in sociological thinking or knowledge. Papers that are good but don't fit the standard molds are particularly welcome.

Social Structures and Inequality. Do Western Concepts Apply Globally?

Session Organizer(s):

Dieter NEUBERT, dieter.neubert@uni-bayreuth.de, University of Bayreuth, Germany

Session in English

The current discussion on middle classes in the Global South has placed one of sociology's core topics - the analysis of social structure and inequality - in the focus of a global sociology. At the same time, this debate shows that the conceptual developments in the social structure debate in sociology are hardly taken into account. The debate on global middle classes is dominated by a simplified notion of class reduced to income. The question whether classes in a Marxian, Weberian or Bourdieuan sense exist is hardly discussed. It is implied that classes are socio-culturally homogenous despite well-known differences with regard to religion, ethnicity or gender and the existence of different lifestyles. Moreover, patterns of intersectionality are hardly recognised.

The simple question is: Do Western sociological concepts apply globally? If so, do we find in the Global South or transitional countries similar classes and social groups as in the "West" and how they are they defined? Or is there a need to develop the concepts further to analyse societies in different world regions. The panel invites empirical and conceptual contributions case studies of specific classes or groups or countries as well as comparative studies.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Business Enterprises and Development: Qualitative Approaches and Case Studies I

Session Organizer(s):

Habibul KHONDKER, habib.khondker@gmail.com, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Michel VILLETTE, michel.villette@icloud.com, AgroParisTech, France

Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, uschuerkens@gmail.com, University Rennes 2 - LiRIS EA 7481, France

Session in French, English

The positive impacts of business enterprises on social and economic development are often alleged by economists, based on statistics, numbers and figures at the macro level. Conversely, the negative impacts such as the exploitation of workers, the destruction of the traditional way of life, the expropriation of the poor, the health and environmental damages have been often documented by sociologists and activists in all parts of the world. In response to these critics, large corporations have developed a window dressing strategy. Green washing, social responsibility allegations and others propaganda formula have made the understanding of what is actually going on even more confuse. The aim of this session is to discuss positive as well as negative impacts of business enterprises activities on local development. We expect well documented qualitative observations and cases studies in order to develop a renewed theoretical approach of the contribution of business enterprises to development.

Social Justice in a Turbulent World: South Asia in Focus

Session Organizer(s):

Habibul KHONDKER, habib.khondker@gmail.com, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Rukmini SEN, senrukmini18@gmail.com, Ambedkar University Delhi, India

Session in English

This session will examine social transformation under conditions of lop-sided economic growth in South Asia, which is generating a variety of grievances and potential threats to ecological systems and social orders. Social justice has become a major concern for the ordinary people who are losing their rights to land, livelihood and are threatened by a variety of looming ecological crises. Social movements of various sorts have appeared to champion the agenda of social justice. Issue of social justice in the conditions of rapid unequal social transformation has taken many forms ranging from right to safe, clean water to health rights apart from broader civil rights and political rights. The political regimes, nominally democratic, are not advancing the causes of democracy by recognizing the democratic rights of the working class, poor and the marginal groups. The space of civil society activism has also shrunk. It is only the voices of people and the progressive groups articulating the theme of social justice who are pitched against the massive forces of social transformation. The session aims to understand this dynamics so as to heighten the level of understanding and consciousness about the central issues of social justice in South Asia.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Young People's Aspirations, Prefigurative Politics, and the Search for Alternative Futures in the Global South

Session Organizer(s):

Eva GERHARZ, eva.gerharz@rub.de, Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of Social Science, Germany

Sandrine GUKELBERGER, sandrine.gukelberger@rub.de, Sociology, Germany

Antje DANIEL, antje.daniel@uni-bayreuth.de, University Bayreuth, Germany

Deniz Gunce DEMIRHISAR, dgunce@ehess.fr, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France

Session in English

Currently, we are witnessing disillusionment with development and its constitutive elements - such as modernization, democratization, and participation. Much of this is linked to a deep sense of frustration related to struggles in securing livelihoods, improving precarious working conditions, improving public services, or changing of gender orders in the Global South. Additionally, in light of the political swing to the right in Europe and the US, the grand formulas of the development narrative do not offer the same hope or venues in which to imagine a decent and safe future.

By engaging in prefigurative politics, young people do not only express dissent but develop a "capacity to aspire", through embodying forms of social relations, decision-making, and specific (sub-)cultural systems of representation. With their aim being to model imagined futures, prefigurative politics serve to provide the means to articulate aspirations in the present, and envision and experiment with alternative life-designs, gender order, and citizenships – albeit on a temporary and often highly volatile basis.

This session seeks to make inquiries into this new development by using theoretically and empirically grounded insights into projects and experiences with prefigurative politics in different parts of the Global South, and to analyze the negotiations within such initiatives, which are geared towards producing alternative narratives of a "decent life." Our aim is to investigate the tensions, which emerge from the lived experience of individuals, who seek to escape the insecurity and complexity of the contemporary global economy through a utopian vision of a different society.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

The Global Climate Crisis and the Climate and Social Justice Movements for a Just Transition

Session Organizer(s):

John FORAN, foran@soc.ucsb.edu, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

Session in English

In December 2015, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change convened in Paris to finalize a global climate treaty. The resulting "Paris Agreement" is inadequate to the task of addressing the unprecedented global climate crisis, based as it is on non-binding voluntary national pledges, which even if all met would take global warming into the catastrophic range. Simultaneously, a sprawling climate justice movement has been growing in numbers, reach, and strength, interlinked in a vast network of networks. After Paris and now in the wake of Donald Trump's administration in the United States, these movements are trying to scale up their efforts to put in place alternatives to both "business-as-usual" global neoliberalism and the "capitalist reformist" hopes placed in the Paris Agreement. The new social movements seek both a fair and binding global climate treaty and pathways toward deeply sustainable societies. This session asks whether it remains possible to "change everything," as Naomi Klein puts it in her best-selling book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. Consisting of prominent public intellectuals, climate activists, and interdisciplinary scholars, the panel will collectively address the question: how can the global climate and social justice movements work creatively to craft action plans that address the root causes and future impacts of climate change? In doing so, we will be rethinking the most important global social movement of the 21st century, and how humanity's response to the problem of climate change will define the conditions of life as the century wears on.

Discourse, Power, and Development: Turning a Critical Lens on INGOs

Session Organizer(s):

Mollie PEPPER, mollie.pepper@gmail.com, Northeastern University, USA

Session in English

This panel turns its attention to the International Nongovernmental Organizations that shape development practices. By asking about the discourses, imaginaries, and assemblages of international development work, this panel takes a critical approach to thinking about the role of INGOs. What discourses shape the work of INGOs? How are those discourses created, validated, and perpetuated and what does this tell us about where power lies? What is the effect of these discourses in practice? Considering implications of development discourses for the politics of power in development aid allows for a more critical and reflexive study of international development. A careful interrogation of the construction of the various actors of development and the "needs" that development aid addresses shapes this panel's discussion to bring us collectively closer to a critical reflection on the roles and work of INGOs.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Networks of Development, Networks in Development

Session Organizer(s):

Samuel COHN, s-cohn@tamu.edu, Texas A and M University, USA

Session in English

This is an open session for any papers that contain innovative new theories or important new findings in development sociology. Presenters may come from any theoretical tradition, use any methodology - either quantitative or qualitative, may study any region of the world and may consider any time period including the present day. The session is a forum to present new work that is exciting, stimulating and represents a significant advance in sociological thinking or knowledge. Papers that are good but don't fit the standard molds are particularly welcome.

Public Sector Corruption, Inequality and Social Transformations

Session Organizer(s):

Ilona WYSMULEK, ilona.wysmulek@gmail.com, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Session in English

Public sector corruption constitutes one of the basic social problems that is yet far from being solved. It is one of the mechanisms of social exclusion and has unequal harmful effect on different groups in society. As to recent theoretical approaches, countries with prevalent corruption are in the 'inequality trap', which constitutes the vicious circle of low institutional trust and high corruption perception. Corruption is often compared to contagious disease, as perceiving widespread corruption and unfair treatment in public sector justifies and enhances own corrupt behavior. Despite advances in our knowledge about cross-country variations and harmful effects of corruption, there are many questions that still remain unanswered.

We encourage in this session to look at the problem of corruption from sociological perspectives, exploring the relation between corruption experiences and life situations, coming from prevailing social context and individual location within this context. This session concentrates on three main research questions: (a) What is the relation between individual social position and corruption experience in local public institutions? (b) What are the sources, new forms and mechanisms behind corruption experiences in different public institutions? (c) How do social, economic and political transformations as well as sector specific interventions impact institutional and structural corruption? This session looks for papers with comparative cross-country or cross-sector perspective, as well as papers with new theoretical framework that feature relation of institutional corruption, inequality and social transformations.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Social Problems, Development and Policy in Africa I

Session Organizer(s):

Jonathan AMOYAW, jamoyaw@uwo.ca, University of Western Ontario, Canada

Godfred BOATENG, godfred.boateng@northwestern.edu, Northwestern University, USA

Session in English

Development in Africa has been hampered by a myriad of problems, which have crippled the social structure of several African countries and stifled the catching up process with the West. Gender inequality, lack of decent jobs, corruption, religious and ethnic conflicts, food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, child malnutrition, and environmental degradation are persistent in many African countries. Although these social issues have received some attention from development and academic communities, it has translated into fewer functioning and transforming policies. Many countries are plagued with dormant policies and approaches for tackling these persistent and frequently multidimensional problems. The overall goal of this session is to stimulate a critical discussion by academics and social researchers on case studies, approaches, and best practices related to the problems mentioned and examine the public policy implications for these challenges. Particularly, this session will situate problems within the context of potential policy intervention strategies. Papers are invited from individuals who are working on such initiatives, especially those that center on poverty reduction, social development, gender mainstreaming, health, policy issues, livelihood strategies, and other mechanisms that seek to improve the overall quality of life in African communities.

Social Problems, Development and Policy in Africa II

Session Organizer(s):

Godfred BOATENG, godfred.boateng@northwestern.edu, Northwestern University, USA

Jonathan AMOYAW, jamoyaw@uwo.ca, Dalhousie University, Canada

Session in English

Development in Africa has been hampered by a myriad of problems, which have crippled the social structure of several African countries and stifled the catching up process with the West. Gender inequality, lack of decent jobs, corruption, religious and ethnic conflicts, food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, child malnutrition, and environmental degradation are persistent in many African countries. Although these social issues have received some attention from development and academic communities, it has translated into fewer functioning and transforming policies. Many countries are plagued with dormant policies and approaches for tackling these persistent and frequently multidimensional problems. The overall goal of this session is to stimulate a critical discussion by academics and social researchers on case studies, approaches, and best practices related to the problems mentioned and examine the public policy implications for these challenges. Particularly, this session will situate problems within the context of potential policy intervention strategies. Papers are invited from individuals who are working on such initiatives, especially those that center on poverty reduction, social development, gender mainstreaming, health, policy issues, livelihood strategies, and other mechanisms that seek to improve the overall quality of life in African communities.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Conceptualizing Changing Social Structures Beyond the West

Session Organizer(s):

Dieter NEUBERT, dieter.neubert@uni-bayreuth.de, University of Bayreuth, Germany
Florian STOLL, stollflorian@gmail.com, Center for Cultural Sociology/ Yale University, USA

Session in English

Processes of social transformation are directly linked to the question of changing social structures. Since the critique of the classical modernisation theories in the 1970s we are well aware that processes of change did hardly follow the path of European modernisation. Change is linked to the unequal global interdependencies as described by dependency theory and the globalisation debate; and the processes of change are influenced by specific local contexts that lead to multiple modernities. However, when it comes to social structure the classical theories of Marx, Weber and their followers are still dominant. Do our theories of social structure really apply all parts of our world? Are we able to describe and conceptualize social change just with an application of Marx or Weber? What are the patterns of changing social structures outside “the West” and how do we conceptualize changing social structures? To answer these questions we need to studies of different countries and comparative studies, too.

RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development Posters

Session Organizer(s):

Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, uschuerkens@gmail.com, University Rennes 2 - LiRIS EA 7481, France
Habibul KHONDKER, habib.khondker@gmail.com, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Session in English, French, Spanish

The session reunites promising papers that discuss topics of Social Transformations and Sociology of Development.

Poverty, Policy and Resistance in the Global South

Session Organizer(s):

Samuel COHN, s-cohn@tamu.edu, Texas A and M University, USA

Session in English

This is an open session for any papers that contain innovative new theories or important new findings in development sociology. Presenters may come from any theoretical tradition, use any methodology - either quantitative or qualitative, may study any region of the world and may consider any time period including the present day. The session is a forum to present new work that is exciting, stimulating and represents a significant advance in sociological thinking or knowledge. Papers that are good but don't fit the standard molds are particularly welcome.

RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

Tolerance in Dislocation: The Global/Local Model of the Arab Gulf States and Societies

Session Organizer(s):

Rima SABBAN, rima.sabban@zu.ac.ae, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Session in English

The fast and hyper transformation in Gulf Societies and States could be a form of dislocation as Lacan characterized the “de-centered” or dislocated places by forces outside itself. This panel proposes a discussion of the speedy transformation of the Arab Gulf States and societies (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates). The recent economic stagnation resulting from the drop in the oil prices has left the Gulf region with multiple models of change. The panel invites a discussion of such multiplicity from different forms of interaction: the old and the new, the global and the local, the centered and the “de-centered” etc... Such forms of fragmentations and societal ruptures/and not, could also be forms of dynamic change as scholars of the region have pointed to. The aim here is to problematize the different relationships - identities, ethnicities, believes, generations, geographies, and modalities in Gulf societies. Situated in a region burning with violence, the Gulf States (UAE particularly) are trying to lead by example. They are presented as oasis of tolerance and happiness. The question remains can the Gulf States and societies sustain such model of development? How do they maintain the current balance of diversity and dislocation? How can they resolve the multiple identities, and interconnectivity? How do such forms interact and reflect a peacefully surface of interconnectivity? Can the Gulf States present a model of peace and tolerance to the neighboring countries as they proclaim?

RC09 Authors Meet Critics

Session Organizer(s):

Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, uschuerkens@gmail.com, University Rennes 2 - LiRIS EA 7481, France

Session in English

Ulrike Schuerkens and Victor Roudometof present their books and make comments on the book of their colleague:

Ulrike Schuerkens (2017) *Social Changes in a Global World*. Sage: London.

Victor Roudometof (2016) *Glocalisation: A Critical Introduction*. Routledge: New York.

Habib Khondker and Chares Demetriou will discuss these books before the audience will be able to ask questions or to make comments.

Recent RC09 Member Publications

Edwards, Zophia. 2017. "No Colonial Working Class, No Post-Colonial Development: A Comparative-Historical Analysis of Two Oil-Rich Countries." *Studies in Comparative International Development*. Pp.1-23.

Abstract: Development sociologists generally agree that states play a critical role in promoting, as well as in impeding, development. However, far less scholarly consensus exists on the precise historical processes that lead either to strong or to weak states. This paper investigates the factors that shape varied state capacities through a comparative-historical analysis of two similar countries with divergent development outcomes—Trinidad and Tobago and Gabon. In the 1960s, both countries had comparably large amounts of oil wealth, minimal state involvement in the economy, and low levels of development. In the 1970s, state capacity in Trinidad and Tobago dramatically increased and the country went on to achieve high levels of development. The Gabonese state, on the other hand, remained weak resulting in persistent low levels of development. This paper traces the divergence in state capacity to variations in working class mobilization, specifically the particular type of working class movements in each country and the political opportunity contexts. In doing so, this paper reveals new agents and contingencies producing state capacity that are not predominantly discussed in the contemporary development literature, and the meso-level mechanics by which these agents are successful or constrained in doing so.

Edwards, Zophia. 2017. "Resistance and Reforms: The Role of Subaltern Agency in Colonial State Development." *Rethinking the Colonial State. Political Power and Social Theory*. Pp.175-201.

Abstract: In the periods, following the First and Second World Wars, colonial states across the British empire underwent waves of reforms that were geared toward improving human well-being, from enhancing social conditions, such as health and education, to expanding opportunities for economic and political engagement. The literature on the colonial state typically traces these state-building efforts to the agency of European colonial officials. However, evidence from a historical analysis of Trinidad and Tobago reveals a different agent driving state reform: the colonized. A local labor movement during colonialism forced the colonial state to construct a number of state agencies to ameliorate the economic, political, and social conditions in the colony, thereby resulting in an increase in state capacity. This study, therefore, provides critical intervention into the colonial state literature by showing that the agency of the colonized, as opposed to just the colonizers, is key to state-building, and specifying the mechanisms by which the subaltern constrained colonial officials and forced them to enact policies that improved colonial state capacity.

Edwards, Zophia. 2017 "Boon or bane: Examining divergent development outcomes among oil-and mineral-dependent countries in the Global South." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 58(4): 304-332.

Abstract: Under neoliberal conditions that privilege foreign investors and call for the retreat of the state, some oil- and mineral-dependent countries in the Global South outperform others. To investigate what accounts for this variation in economic development among these countries, this study tests hypotheses derived from resource curse and dependency/world systems literatures using a dataset of 36 oil- and mineral-dependent countries in the Global South from 1984 through 2010 and panel methods of data analysis. The results show that state capacity and debt dependence shape uneven development outcomes among these countries. The implications for resource curse and dependency/world systems theories are discussed.

Elsen, Susanne. Forthcoming 2018. *Eco-Social Development and Community-Based Economy*. Routledge.

Harris, Joseph. 2017. "'Professional Movements' and the Expansion of Access to Healthcare in the Industrializing World." *Sociology of Development* (3)3: 252-72.

Explanations for the expansion of the welfare state have frequently centered on the importance of left-wing political parties and labor unions. Scholars have even pointed to the rare but growing significance of social democracy in the industrializing world. Yet, in the field of healthcare, labor unions frequently oppose sweeping universalistic reforms that threaten to erode members' existing benefits, and those most in need of healthcare in rural areas and the informal sector are often the least organized politically. In the absence of mass demands, who then is responsible for universal healthcare programs in the industrializing world, and by what means do they successfully advocate for far-reaching reforms? This article explores the role that "professional movements" played in expanding access to healthcare in an industrializing nation that was engaged in processes of democratization. Mass movements are typically composed of lay people; by contrast, professional movements are made up of elites from esteemed professions who command knowledge, networks, and access to state resources that set them apart from ordinary citizens. The account illustrates how and why professional movements are able to play such a powerful role in health policymaking in the industrializing world, points to the need for more research on professional movements in other cases and policy domains, and discusses their relevance to social change in the industrializing world.

Available here: <http://josephharris.net/index.php/publications/>

Harris, Joseph. 2017. *Achieving Access: Professional Movements and the Politics of Health Universalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

At a time when the world's wealthiest nations struggle to make healthcare and medicine available to everyone, how and why do resource-constrained countries make costly commitments to universal health coverage and AIDS treatment after transitioning to democracy? While conventional wisdom suggests that democratization empowers the masses, Harris draws attention to an underappreciated dynamic: that democratization empowers elites from esteemed professions – frequently doctors and lawyers – who forge progressive change on behalf of those in need in the face of broader opposition. The book explores dynamics that made landmark policies possible in Thailand and Brazil but which have led to prolonged struggle and contestation in South Africa, extending lines of research related to health social movements and the professions, with implications for global/transnational sociology, the sociology of development and human rights, political and medical sociology, and comparative and historical sociology.

“Joseph Harris has written a masterful account about achieving access to health services and to AIDS medications in three countries—Thailand, Brazil, and South Africa. His book explains both successes and failures in six case studies. He focuses attention on a new idea: the critical role of professional movements in driving policy reforms to expand access. The book offers both theoretical and practical lessons, and will be welcomed by policymakers, academics, and activists. It is an important and readable addition to the literature on achieving access.”—Michael R. Reich, coauthor of *Getting Health Reform Right*.

“Through an in-depth analysis of three countries from different continents, this excellent book deepens scholarly understanding of the health care improvements resulting from democratization. In an innovative twist, Joseph Harris highlights how heightened political competition empowers progressive professional movements, which manage to promote poor people's medical needs and interests against considerable resistance.”—Kurt Weyland, author of *Making Waves*.

“The excellent *Achieving Access* is very timely, and it helps us understand how specific policies came about (or didn't) in Brazil, Thailand and South Africa. The reader feels intimately connected to the events that Joseph Harris describes. This is not just an account of lawyers and doctors, but of individual people.”—Joseph Wong, Ralph and Roz Halbert Professor of Innovation, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, author of *Betting on Biotech*.

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<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100827980>

Hosseini, S. A. H. & Gills, B. K. (2017) *Critical Globalization Studies and Development*, in H. Veltmeyer & P. Bowles (eds.) *The Essential Guide to Critical Development Studies* (pp. 138-52), Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Essential-Guide-to-Critical-Development-Studies/Veltmeyer-Bowles/p/book/9781472483485>

Hosseini, S A H, Gills, B. K. & Goodman, J. (2017) Theorizing Alternatives to Capital: Towards a Critical Cosmopolitanist Framework, *European Journal of Social Theory*, 20(2), (Published online before print in April 10, 2016), pp. 1-18. – <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1368431016642609>

This article critically reflects on theoretical dilemmas of conceptualizing recent ideological shifts and contention among global transformative movements. Some studies conceptualize these movements as ideologically mature and coherent, while other inquiries highlight disorganization, fragmentation, disillusion, and dispute. The former line of argument suggests that underlying emerging global solidarities—to the extent they genuinely exist—there are some identifiably coherent cosmopolitanist, or globalist, values. The latter claim that existing global justice and transformative movements lack an effective ideological position for uniting the masses behind a global (political) project for transforming global capitalist social relations. By drawing upon an interpretive review of empirical studies conducted throughout the last decade, the article delineates four modalities, defined in terms of their orientations toward cosmopolitanist values. Among these modalities is a new and promising one, termed here as ‘transversal cosmopolitanist’ (‘transversal’ here understood as a process verb, indicating a new form of cosmopolitanist praxis). This approach assumes the possibility of creating a common ground for fruitful dialogue, constructive collective learning, progressive hybridization, and active political cooperation among diverse identities and ideological visions of contemporary global transformative movements, against existing capitalist social relations and structures of domination.

Hosseini, S A H, Gills, B. K. & Goodman, J. (2017) Towards Transversal Cosmopolitanism: Understanding Alternative Praxes in the Global Field of Transformative Movements, *Globalizations*, 14(5), pp. 667-84. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2016.1217619>

We are living in an era of multiple crises, multiple social resistances, and multiple cosmopolitanisms. The post-Cold War context has generated a plethora of movements, but no single unifying ideology or global political program has yet materialized. The historical confrontation between capital and its alternatives, however, continues to pose new possibilities for social and systemic transformations. Critical analysis of ideological divisions among today’s diverse emancipatory and transformative movements is important in order to understand past and present shortcomings, and many continuing difficulties in imagining crisis-free alternative futures. Inspired by a multiplicity of responses from the Global South and the Global North, and by furthering Delanty’s critical cosmopolitanist approach, this article aims to create a new framework for interpreting ‘transformative visions’ that challenge systems of domination embedded in capitalist social relations. The framework is designed to enable the evaluative analysis of such visions, as well as the exploration of embedded ideological obstacles to dialogue and collaboration among them.

Neubert, Dieter and Florian Stoll. 2017. The “narrative of the African middle class” and its conceptual limitations. Pp. 57-79 in Lena Kroeker, David O’Kane and Tabea Scharrer (eds.). *Middle Classes in Africa - Critiques and Realities*. Palgrave.

Villette, Michel and François Fourcade. 2017. "The incompatibility of worlds within a multinational corporation: The experience of a French expat in a Mexican factory." *Annales des Mines, Gérer et Comprendre, Annual English Selection*, pages 1-12.

On line edition: <http://www.anales.org/gc/GC-english-language-online-edition/2017/VILLETTE-FOURCADE.pdf>

Abstract: This ethnographic account of a managerial situation is a contribution to the new institutionalist studies of MNC based on the testimony of an expatriated French engineer in a Mexican factory. We try to make an in-depth analysis of the gap between what needed to be done in the Mexican context to make the factory profitable, and the good practices prescribed by the financial, technical, and legal services of corporate headquarters. Our analysis supports the theory of incompatible worlds (*Lebenswelt*) that multinational corporations often bring together. We highlight the translation-betrayals and deceptions that an expat has to accomplish, including whilst presenting the accounts, in order to avoid any obstacle caused by the incompatibilities that could jeopardize the factory's smooth operations. We emphasize the arrangements the engineer had to negotiate to avoid, for example, the well-intentioned paternalism of a powerful potentate or the "tax" paid to local police in the name of an exogenous conception of law and ethics.

Wallimann, Isidor, ed. 2014. *Environmental Policy is Social Policy – Social Policy is Environmental Policy: Toward Sustainability Policy*. Springer Science & Business Media.

This book argues that social and environmental policy should be synthetically treated as one and the same field, that both are but two aspects of the same coin – if sustainability is the goal. Such a paradigm shift is indicated, important, and timely to effectively move towards sustainability. This book is the first to take this approach and to give examples for it. Not to synthetically merge the two fields has been and will continue to be highly insufficient, inefficient and contradictory for policy and public administration aiming for a transformation towards a sustainable world. In



general, social problems are dealt with in one "policy corner" and environmental problems in another. Rarely is social policy (at large) concerned with its impact on the environment or its connection with and relevance to environmental policy. Equally, environmental problems are generally not seen in conjunction with social policy, even though much environmental policy directly relates to health, nutrition, migration and other issues addressed by social policy. This book intends to correct the pattern to separate these very significant and large policy fields. Using examples from diverse academic and applied fields, it is shown how environmental policy can (and should) be thought of as social policy – and how social policy can (and should) simultaneously be seen as environmental policy. Tremendous benefits are to be expected.

Wassan, MR, Hussain, Z, Shah, MA and Amin, SN. 2017. International labor migration and social change in rural Sindh, Pakistan. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 26(3): 381-402.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0117196817732210>

Abstract: This study examines why and how labor migration from a village in Sindh, Pakistan to Saudi Arabia has influenced changes for the left-behind families and the community. We find that while migration impacts positively on the material conditions of individual migrants and their families in the village, the potential of migration to impact on other aspects of living conditions, social change and development at community levels is shaped and often limited by existing structures of power, including gender structures and other socio-political structures. In the absence of investment in school infrastructures by the state, remittances from migration have not translated into improved educational outcomes for the children of migrants. We also find that the male migrants are leveraging their new status in the family to exercise more choice in marriage matters with possible negative impact on women.

Weiß, A., 2017: Soziologie globaler Ungleichheiten. Berlin: Suhrkamp.

http://www.suhrkamp.de/buecher/soziologie_globaler_ungleichheiten-anja_weiss_29820.html

The sociology of social stratification is caught in a dead-lock: Data and concepts remain bounded by the nation-state while recent theorizing as well as popular debate focus on the global level.

The book offers a sociological approach to global inequalities that is illustrated by results from two inter- and transnationally comparative research projects on skilled migration. Building on individualist traditions with their focus on the resources of persons and households but emphasizing the relational character of capabilities I take a closer look at the social contexts in which resources are put to use. In times of globalization we must assume that persons are placed in more than one social context and we should part with the assumption that the nation state can frame a congruent set of economic, political, cultural and territorial borders. By clarifying the ways in which persons and their resources are embedded in territorial, political, and functional contexts sociology can identify social layers in the world that are structured (a) by their resources and (b) by the socio-spatial autonomy of persons and resources.

The proposed model of social layers in the world is adequate for both an analysis of populations residing in strong national welfare-states and for the larger part of humankind who is mobile and/or embedded in zones of weak statehood and/or in transnational social fields. As socio-spatial autonomy can be operationalized, the model will contribute a distinctly sociological perspective to empirical research on global inequalities.

The book is in German, but the following English publications offer summaries:

Weiß, A., 2005: The transnationalization of social inequality. Conceptualizing social positions on a world scale. *Current Sociology* 53: 707-728.

Weiß, A., 2018: Contextualizing global inequalities. A sociological approach. S. in: Korzeniewicz, R.P. & I. Wallerstein (Hrsg.). *The World-System as Unit of Analysis: Past Contributions and Future Advances*. New York: Routledge.

Weiß, A., 2018: Inequality and migration. S. 122-130 in: Antonelli, G. & B. Rehbein (Hrsg.). *Inequality in Economics and Society. New Perspectives [Routledge Studies in Development Economics 138]*. Abingdon, New York: Routledge.

Sociology still believes in a world of strong national welfare states that care for their citizens. However, many people live in areas of weak statehood or in states that threaten them. Others migrate between states or work for transnational companies. In her book, Anja Weiß pleads for a sociological view of global inequalities, which finally takes these contexts beyond the state seriously. In addition, she distinguishes areas that are territorially bound from socially differentiated fields and politically contested affiliations. One of her hypotheses is that opportunities for life arise between people and contexts - and the fight for access to the latter is fierce.

***Social Changes in a Global World*, by Ulrike Schuerkens. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2017, ISBN-13: 978-1473930216, ISBN-10:1473930219, 270 pp. \$28.18, paperback; \$29 Kindle.**

Reviewed by Ligia E. Toutant. 2017. *Journal of Social Change* 9(1): 119–121.

RC09 Members: New Grants and Projects

Political Voice and Economic Inequality across Nations and Time

Joshua Dubrow, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

Poland's National Science Centre has awarded a grant for the project, "Political Voice and Economic Inequality across Nations and Time" (2016/23/B/HS6/03916) for the period 2017 -2020. The Principal Investigator is Joshua K. Dubrow, who is Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and who is also a current RC 09 Member and its former newsletter editor.

The purpose of the project is to advance the theory, methods, and empirical base for studying the relationship between political inequality and economic inequality. The fundamental research questions are:

- (1) How and to what extent are the main components of political voice inequality – political participation and party representation – related to each other once main features of political and economic institutions are accounted for?
- (2) How do changes in economic inequality at the macro-level relate to political voice at the micro-level?
- (3) At the macro-level, how and to what extent do political voice inequality and economic inequality influence each other?

This project builds on empirical research on how economic resources and political voice connects, accounting for how political institutions moderate this connection. The social sciences do not have appropriate cross-national and over-time measures of political voice inequality and thus has never adequately addressed our research questions. Thus, we will create the Political Inequality Database (POLINQ) which is a multi-country multi-year dataset with cross-national measures of political voice in terms of levels of voice and inequality of voice from survey and administrative data for over 65 democratic countries from 1990 to 2015.

For more information, please visit the project website, Politicalinequality.org.

Deliberating Democratic Alternatives to Capital in 21st Century

Dr. S. A. Hamed Hosseini F, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Newcastle, Australia

Goal: The project investigates progressive alternatives to capital in 21st century which have been developed in the form of theory, model, practice, policy, and project. It investigates the capacities of these alternatives for cross-ideological interactions and integration. It particularly focuses on four major democratic modes of livelihood and sociality which have influenced transformative social movements in the global field of post-capitalist transitions. More details: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Deliberating-Democratic-Alternatives-to-Capital-in-21st-Century>

Project website and outcomes: <http://thecommonalts.com>

Reconstrucción histórico conceptual y sistematización de experiencias de Economía Comunitaria y Economía Solidaria en Ecuador (Conceptual historical reconstruction and systematization of experiences of Community Economy and Solidarity Economy in Ecuador)

Silvia Vega Ugalde, Universidad Central del Ecuador, Ecuador

The social and solidarity economy teaching group of the Central University of Ecuador, was awarded a fund of \$ 80,000, awarded by the ARES-AI R2 Program (Académie de Recherche et D'Enseignement Supérieur), made up of funds from Belgian Universities to strengthen and promote scientific research at the Central University, the main public university of Ecuador. The project that was submitted to an internal contest of the university, will last for 25 months. It is called "Conceptual historical reconstruction and systematization of experiences of Community Economy and Solidarity Economy in Ecuador" and aims to sustain theoretically, historically and empirically the specific rationalities of the community economy and the solidarity economy and its potentials and limitations, to strengthen endogenous development and equitable of the country and of the localities involved. It will be based on a conceptual clarification of the characteristics of the community economy and the solidarity economy in the contexts of the Andean-Amazonian countries, and the historical reconstruction of the debate on solidarity, popular and community economy will take place around the Constituent Assembly held in Ecuador in 2008, which defined the country's economic system as "social and solidary", a characterization that appears for the first time in the Constitution or Magna Carta of the Republic. In addition, experiences of community economy and / or solidary economy will be documented and systematized in three local territories of the country in order to achieve practical empirical support of the different rationalities present in these initiatives and to contribute to propose strategies to strengthen the actors and their initiatives, worked jointly and participatively between them and the research team. The research will count on the scientific academic support of CIRTES (Center Interdisciplinaire of Recherche Travail, Etat et Société) and the Center d'Etudes du Développement of the Catholic University of Louvain, immersed for some years in studies on the social and solidarity economy in the north and in the south.

Spanish

El grupo docente de economía social y solidaria de la Universidad Central del Ecuador, se hizo acreedor a un fondo de \$80.000 dólares, otorgado por el Programa ARES-AI R2 (Académie de Recherche et D'Enseignement Supérieur), constituido por fondos de Universidades belgas para fortalecer y promover la investigación científica en la Universidad Central, principal universidad pública de Ecuador. El proyecto que fue sometido a un concurso interno de la universidad, tendrá una duración de 25 meses. Se llama "Reconstrucción histórico conceptual y sistematización de experiencias de Economía Comunitaria y Economía Solidaria en Ecuador" y pretende sustentar teórica, histórica y empíricamente las racionalidades específicas de la economía comunitaria y la economía solidaria y sus potenciales y limitaciones, para fortalecer el desarrollo endógeno y equitativo del país y de las localidades involucradas. Se partirá de una clarificación conceptual de las características de la economía comunitaria y de la economía solidaria en los contextos de los países andino-amazónicos y se realizará la reconstrucción histórica del debate sobre economía solidaria, popular, comunitaria acaecido en torno a la Asamblea Constituyente realizada en Ecuador en 2008, que definió el sistema económico del país como "social y solidario", caracterización que consta por primera vez en la Constitución o Carta Magna de la República. Además, se documentará y sistematizará experiencias de economía comunitaria y/o economía solidaria en tres territorios locales del país para lograr la sustentación empírico práctica de las distintas racionalidades presentes en estas iniciativas y para contribuir a proponer estrategias de fortalecimiento de los actores y sus iniciativas, trabajadas de manera conjunta y participativa entre ellos/as y el equipo de investigación. La investigación contará con el apoyo académico científico del CIRTES (Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherche Travail, Etat et Société) y el Centre d'Etudes du Développement de la Universidad Católica de Lovaina, inmersos desde hace algunos años en estudios sobre la economía social y solidaria en el norte y en sur.

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