Remarks from the RC09 Co-Chairs, Ulrike Schuerkens and Habibul Khondker

Dear colleagues,

Let us begin this Newsletter of the RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development with some reflections on the recent elections in Europe and India.

European Parliamentary Elections in sheer volume is the second largest electoral exercise in the world after India’s national election. Both elections concluded in May 2019.

In the European elections, 400 million voters were eligible to vote; in the Indian elections the voter roll was a hefty 900 millions of which 67% or 600 millions or so voters exercised their right to elect 543 members of the parliament.

In the European elections, 51% of the voters voted, which was the largest turn out in the last sixty years. Voters drawn from 28 European countries elected 751 members of the European parliament.

As we prepare for the 2020 ISA World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, where politics in general, and discussions of the rise of the global right will likely dominate, it may be useful to begin reflecting on some of these issues. For the students of social transformations, several things regarding the European elections presented are of interest.

First, nationalism versus globalism was a key dividing line around which people voted in Europe. From the voting numbers, resurgent nationalism may not be as resurgent as it was made out to be. In the end, the winner of the election was Europe and those who wanted to remain in the European union, not the nationalists or exiters. In UK, the Brexiters did well no doubt, which made a point of great relevance to the British politics but of little consequence to Europe as a whole.
It was also clear that as the right-wing politics based on fear and nationalism swelled in Italy and France, the remarkable gains made by the green parties – in Germany and France, but not limited to these countries – provided a necessary counter-weight.

It was also evident that the conventional left/right divide or class-based politics is in decline. In India, identity politics drowned economics. Economics itself loses clarity. Indian voters elected Mr. Narendra Modi, under whose watch Indian economy grew at over 7%; yet India is faced with 6.1% unemployment, the highest percentage in the last 45 years. Yet, the voters – many poor and unemployed - rallied behind him. Mr. Modi’s charisma is built partly on his fiery oration filled with the rhetoric of nationalism rooted in Hinduism, personal honesty, and a presumed muscular foreign policy. However, the thinking class in India worry that the fabric of multicultural and secular consensus on which India was built is now under threat.

Mr. Modi’s government is avowedly in support of the big-business which explains the fact that his election campaign could outspend that of his rivals and dominated the social media. The coalition of the rise of big business and populism was evident in India confounding the conventional class divisions.

In European election the new fault-line could be generational. As the majority of the voters who are concerned with climate change are young, below 35.

The lessons of the elections: it is time for developing new paradigms of social and political change and retiring the old ones.

As usual, you will find in this Newsletter interesting information on new publications and upcoming conferences: in particular, the Brazil ISA Forum in 2020. We invite you to submit your abstracts at the following address until the end of September 2019.

https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum

We would be delighted to meet you in 2020 in Brazil.

For those of you who begin soon the summer holidays, we wish you a pleasant vacation period.

Best regards,

Habibul Khondker
Ulrike Schuerkens
RC09 Co-Chairs
New Idea Alert: RC09 Opinion Column on Social Media

Before you continue reading: Follow us on Twitter: @RC09_ISA and Facebook: @rc09isa

We plan to post content organized by our Editorial team linking short opinion columns of RC09 scholars and other academic professionals about the topic of the week, which will be announced opportunistically. There is a lot going on in our societies and, as social transformations and sociology of development researchers, we sure have some insights to share with the virtual community of Twitter and Facebook to initiate the debate so that we can dialogue and stay informed.

So... here it comes the challenge! We will need your help in order to achieve this ambitious task. We will contact some of you that already follow us on Twitter and ask for a short opinion in specific topic. Then, we'll prepare a short note on our webpage and will share it on Twitter and Facebook.

We encourage you to be part of this movement! Three women are in charge of making our virtual presence work: Almendra Orbegoso, living in Perú, Ilona Wysmulek, in Poland, and Devparna Roy, in the USA... You can imagine how rich it is to coordinate initiatives and to count on insights from each country. But we are more than three; we are a worldwide Committee and we seek to make it come true in more specific ways... Show us your commitment by collaborating with our social media development!

Best,
Almendra
on behalf of the RC09 editorial team

On November 2018, we launched our Facebook and Twitter official accounts. After six months, we’ve reached some followers on Twitter and “likes” on Facebook.

For example, as to Twitter Analytics, we’ve gained 5.2K impressions in the last 28 days. This means that our Twitter posts have appeared on 5.2K Twitter timelines.

We hope that our presence will grow in the virtual sphere, which is increasingly important in this era of information and virtuality.

Twitter: @RC09_ISA
Facebook: rc09isa

https://rc09socialtransformations.org
“Theories and Practices of Glocalization Studies in Europe and East Asia” ~ Seijo University, Tokyo, Japan ~ 9 December 2017
by Victor Roudometof

In late 2017, I was invited by Prof. Tomiyuki Uesugi, Director of the Center for Glocal Studies, Seijo University, to give the plenary address to the symposium on “Theories and Practices of Glocalization Studies in Europe and Asia”. As explained by Prof. Uesugi, the rationale for the symposium was as follows:

Since the turn into the 21st century, anti-globalization movements have become prevalent everywhere in the world. When Brexit was finally chosen in the UK followed by the advent of protectionist Donald Trump’s administration in the US in 2017, some socio-political commentators analyzed those incidents as a historical turn to indicate the “end” of globalization. Certainly, some aspects of globalization seem to be stagnated. However, we confirm that globalization as a socio-politico-economic process itself can never stop as we witness anti-globalization or anti-globalism movements themselves being steadily globalized. At the same time, we realize that the traditional “center-oriented” globalization perspectives and/or the increasingly acknowledged anti-globalism responses against them are not enough for understanding the present state of affairs. That is why we in this symposium formulate theories and practices of glocalization studies.

The sentiment expressed in the above paragraph is one widely felt in several academic discussions. I have also echoed a similar concern in my article “On the limits of globalization”, which appeared in the International Sociological Association’s E-Symposium for Sociology, 2017, 8(3), pp. 1-8; available on line at


In spite of its brief duration, the symposium featured a series of extremely focused and well-presented talks and quite informative and relevant discussion among the participants. The list of participants included Prof. Jang Won-ho (Research Center for Glocal Culture Strategy, Department of Urban Sociology, University of Seoul, Republic of Korea), Prof. Tomiyuki Uesugi (Center for Glocal Studies, Seijo University, Japan), Prof. Ryuhei Hosoya (School of Global & Community Studies, Fukui University, Fukui, Japan), Prof. Shinya Konaka (Center for Global Studies, Shizuoka University, Shizuoka, Japan) and Prof. Kazuhisa Nishihara (Faculty of Social Innovation, Seijo University, Tokyo, Japan).
My own plenary presentation focused on my overview of various theories of glocalization, which I have presented in my monograph *Glocalization: a critical introduction* (London: Routledge, 2016). Subsequently, several of the papers – including my own presentation – have been submitted for publication and will appear in print at the Center’s journal. The *Journal of Glocal Studies* is published by Seijo University’s Center for Glocal Studies (Japan).

In addition to the journal, the Center also sponsors a book series that focuses on Asian perspectives on development, globalization, glocalization and cultural change.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Prof. Uesugi for his invitation and hospitality, and also to thank the colleagues and the staff who helped make this symposium so successful. Finally, I would like to encourage like-minded individuals, especially those in Asia, to connect with and support the Center and its activities.

Victor Roudometof
University of Cyprus

We wish to emphasize in this work the role the systems approach has played in the success of an educational project. The Justo Sierra Studies Center (Centro de Estudios Justo Sierra, CEJUS) was founded 35 years ago, in 1978, in an isolated, poorly developed rural community: Surutato, Sinaloa, located in a high mountain range of Northwest Mexico.

This paper describes the evolution of this rural community self-development experience, taking advantage of systemic concepts rarely used in a rural environment. A major accomplishment of this community is the implementation of an alternative educational model ranging from pre- to high-schooling and, with the association with another organization, the realization of professional studies from the bachelor’s to postgraduate degrees for the exploitation of natural resources.

The project’s most salient characteristic is that the parents themselves designed and implemented for their children their own concept of development, based on an alternative educational model. The problem that sprang this initiative was the poor elementary schooling their children were receiving. In addition, there were no alternatives in town for continuing education after finishing the sixth degree elementary school. The parents’ objective back in 1978 consisted of offering the youth that had finished elementary education, an alternative to formal post-elementary school that would prepare them to remain in the community as productive individuals. Previously, if a student wished to continue his formal education, he would need to move to one of the neighboring urban centers.

The project has always been confronted with a major socio-ecological obstacle: the pernicious influence of the production and traffic of drugs, being done in the neighboring area. Through a participative process of reflection-design-action, with the assistance of external consultants, the community embarked on its own educational project, consisting of an alternative high-school, including the formation of educational promoters who, in turn, would expand the project beyond the community’s own boundaries to other neighboring settlements.

By 2003-2004, CEJUS made a strategic alliance with the Center for Innovation and Educational Development (Centro de Innovación y Desarrollo Educativo, CIDE), to provide professional and graduate studies geared to research in applied disciplines related to sustainable exploitation of natural resources. CIDE is another alternative learning model, whose major features are problem-solving learning, individual and group study, individualized study plans, and most importantly: the intensive use of Internet for the retrieval and use of up to date scientific and technological information.

Recently, this association has permitted CEJUS to graduate five of its members as Engineers. An important factor for the success of the CEJUS model is the provision to the community of a participative strategic planning tool, based on systemic principles, at the beginning of this long process. The continuous support of a key external advisor, and the use of the Reflection and Design Conference, another systemic tool, to back up the idealized design of the future, have also been fundamental for the success of this alternative learning project.

This study tests the claim that police legitimacy affects the prevalence of homicide. Using a cross-national time series dataset of 100 countries, I conduct a statistical analysis of the association between the extent to which the public perceives the police as legitimate and the homicide rate. The analysis suggests that police legitimacy has a substantial, negative association with homicide rates, consistent across different sources of homicide data and controlling for a variety of economic, political and demographic variables. The paper provides evidence that police legitimacy is related to violent behavior, and that this relationship is generalizable across a wide range of contexts, but more pronounced in non-high-income and comparatively unequal countries.


Many international survey projects contain items on corruption that facilitate comparative analyses of individual-level determinants of perceived and experienced corruption, yet such data remain under-used. To encourage more and better use of the wealth of available survey projects, this article presents a comprehensive review of the largest collection of extant cross-national data suitable for research on corruption in Europe. I examine a total of 1129 items on corruption stemming from 21 international survey projects and their 89 survey waves that cover 45 European countries during the period 1989–2017. Within three decades, the number of corruption items has grown remarkably, rising from just one in 1989 to nearly a hundred in 2017. This article shows the trends: a considerable increase in experiential items; greater differentiation between forms of corruption; a move from items on ‘what government has done’ to items on ‘what ordinary people can do’; and inclusion of items on corruption in private sector. Researchers interested in understanding perceptions and experiences of corruption, as they are shaped by social contexts, are offered an opportunity of exploring the availability of corruption items in international survey projects in a systematic manner in order to analyze patterns of corruption, its causes and consequences. Concluding part of the paper contains some remarks on the challenges of using survey data on corruption in a comparative framework.

The article received an honorable mention for the Harkness Student Paper Award 2019 competition of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR).
https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0011392118812933

Addressing a major theoretical lacuna in the literature concerning ‘the local’ and localization, in this article different interpretations of the local are presented and critiqued and a different account of the local and localization as a focal point for social research is offered. In the article, it is argued that social theory needs to give the local its due and avoid surrendering the local to localism. The local is thematized in terms of the space/place nexus; although it is impossible to bind the local in terms of space, it is possible to do so in terms of place. Hence, the suggestion is to think of the local as a place. From within these lenses, localization is conceived as a process of place making, which in turn successfully differentiates the local from the related concepts of globalization and glocalization. The increasing pace of globalization emerges as a factor counteracting localization, thereby giving birth to various localisms. Possible avenues for developing alternatives to current versions of exclusivist localism are explored.

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Globalization brings forth a geographical and thematic expansion of the scope of youth studies beyond the traditional topics of delinquency, studies of generations, and subculture. Youth has emerged as a topic for cosmopolitanism studies with a widespread tendency to use cosmopolitanism as a master narrative that leaves no conceptual room for considering “non-cosmopolitan” on an equal footing. The article questions whether social research should be concerned with identifying the cosmopolitanism of youth or whether it should be concerned with examinations of the glocalization of world’s youth (sub-)cultures. In the article’s last section, I outline a research agenda that focuses upon the relationship between the world’s youth (sub-)cultures, on the one hand, and glocalization and trans-localization, on the other. Use of these concepts offers important insights into the youth’s cultural practices and is an alternative to the master narrative of cosmopolitanization.
http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/glocal_religions#published

The globalization of the world’s religions leads to a variety of fusions whereby local elements blend with global religions, leading to hybrid local-global or glocal religious forms. Glocal forms of religion provide a hitherto insufficiently explored research agenda with the potential of further growth in the future. This volume introduces the basic tenets of this research agenda and offers examples from around the globe. In the volume’s individual chapters, authors explore a diverse tapestry of such forms that cover cases from the Caribbean, Japan, Finland, Eastern Europe, US, Korea, Southeast Asia and Central America. Glocal forms of religious expression exist across diverse religious traditions. In this volume, religious traditions specifically explored include Buddhism, Hinduism, folk or traditional religions, Eastern Orthodox Christianity & Protestantism.


Unlike many other Orthodox Churches, the Church of Cyprus evolved in a historically distinct trajectory, maintaining an institutional independence from post-1878 colonial authorities. This status was codified in the 1960 Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus. As a result, while it lost much of its estates during the British period, as well as after the 1974 Turkish invasion, the church was able to continue to operate as an independent economic agent both during the British era, as well as, during the post-1960 era. The church’s hierarchs adopted a quite rare model of “businessman bishop”, whereby some of its bishops became heavily involved in numerous economic activities. The Archiepiscopal Throne too invested heavily in the banking sector, tourism, commercial companies, manufacturing, etc. This intertwining between economic entrepreneurship and religious institutions is certainly departing from the typical state-church model prevalent in most Orthodox nations. The effects of the post-2008 crisis into the church’s portfolio are extensive and place numerous fiscal restrictions on its various activities. For this reason, following the March 2013 EU decisions concerning the island’s banking sector, the church has been quite vocal in protecting its interests – as well as framing this response in terms of the general public good.

Purpose: The Government of India dramatically altered the dynamic between business and society when it introduced the Companies Act 2013, which mandated firms to expend at least 2 per cent of average net profits on corporate responsibility (CR) programmes. This reconfiguration of social value creation may serve as a template for a closer and participatory relationship between the private sector and government in emerging economies and beyond. This paper aims to analyse how CR expectations have taken shape in the print media in India. Specifically, the authors ask the following: What are the dimensions of CR expectations in mainstream Indian newspapers?, and Why, according to the newspaper narratives, do corporations have these responsibilities?

Design/methodology/approach: In this qualitative study, the authors randomly selected and analysed 50 per cent (n = 442) of the newspaper articles that dealt explicitly with CR. The articles appeared in the top five Indian English-language newspapers and the top two Hindi-language newspapers between 1 January and 31 December 2015. Using Content Configuration Analysis (CCA), the authors developed a typology of CR expectations and analysed their associated justifications. Finally, they used CCA to analyse how this typology and its justifications connect to the two main stakeholders: the business sector and government.

Findings: The analyses reveal how the introduction of the Companies Act 2013 had a major impact on CR expectations by explicitly and legally casting the business sector as the engine of social development. The authors were able to describe how contextual and cultural dimensions frame evolving interests and societal demands towards corporations, and how difficult it may be for corporations to fulfil CR expectations that are well beyond their core business and that reach domains usually pertaining to government.

Originality/value: This study contributes an empirical exploration of media discourse on contemporary CR expectations in India and its associated notions of social value creation, and how these are shaped by various cultural and contextual influences. The authors discuss how this novel approach to CR modifies the relations between business and society, and they reflect on the opportunities and limits of this model for other emerging economies, which struggle to formulate a symbiotic relationship between business and society.
Zinette Bergman, Manfred Max Bergman, and Andrew Thatcher (2019) “Agency and Bandura’s Model of Triadic Reciprocal Causation: An Exploratory Mobility Study Among Metrorail Commuters in the Western Cape, South Africa”. *Frontiers in Psychology*

Most studies on sustainable mobility focus on technological, socio-structural, or psychosocial influences while neglecting individual motivations and practices. In this study, we examine mobility motivations and practices as part of a complex interplay between psychosocial and socio-structural dimensions within the mobility infrastructure of Metrorail in the Western Cape. Drawing on Albert Bandura’s theory of personal agency and the model of triadic reciprocal causation, we interviewed 38 commuters (mean age 33 years, SD 11, 50% women/men) and analyzed the data using hermeneutic content analysis and multidimensional scaling. Based on our analyses, we identified three pathways that describe the mobility practices of Metrorail users, each with its own purpose and function. We explore these pathways and their consequences for sustainable mobility in relation to daily commuter agency, motivations, and past experiences.

Zinette Bergman and Manfred Max Bergman (Forthcoming) “A case study of the sustainable mobility problem-solution paradox: Motility and access of Metrorail commuters in the Western Cape”

Public transport in general and passenger trains in particular are often advertised as solutions to mobility challenges due to their relatively low carbon footprint, high commuter load, high public safety, and contribution to reduced road congestion. But how do these advantages apply to contexts characterized by inequality, poverty, and exclusion, and where train infrastructure is underdeveloped and poorly maintained? In this study, we examine the imaginaries and their associated transport predispositions of Metrorail users in the Western Cape province of South Africa. Based on 31 interviews conducted with Metrorail users, we explored how they conceptualize access to and use of mobility. The conceptual framework for this is provided by the Motility concept as developed by Kaufmann, Bergman, and Joye. Findings show that the context and culture defining the daily lives of Metrorail users reflect a reality, which is far removed from the way we theorize sustainable mobility. The limitations of spatial and social inequality, which create the mobility boundaries of Motility for these commuters, reveal a significant gap between their lives and the policies aimed to foster our sustainable mobility future. Despite this, the commuters of our study are highly mobile, and we end this article with an attempt to align these conflicting domains of dysfunctional contexts, mobility practices, and sustainability ideals.

Migration shapes much of the history and destiny of humankind. Studies on citizenship, migration, and inclusion have been with us since the beginnings of politics and academia (Jehne, 2011; Plato, 1992). Unsurprisingly, there are many types of migration, relating to not only individuals, groups, or peoples but also to capital, ideas, values, jobs, technology, ideology, information, data, and so on. Conceptualizing migration is extremely complex, even if we were to limit our focus to individuals or groups. Foci may include immigration or immigration versus outmigration or emigration; forced migration versus voluntary migration; internal migration versus transborder migration; rural versus urban migration; and long-term versus short-term migration. A study on migration may furthermore focus on (economic vs. political) refugees, asylum seekers, family reunification, education or health migration, labor migration, or retirement migration. I suspect that food and water migration, as well as migration to escape wars and civil wars, will shape much of our century. Migration may be examined from a sender country or from a receiver country; from an individual, familial, regional, or national perspective; and from an economic, political, legal, social, cultural, physiological, or psychological perspective. Despite the vastness and complexity implied in this list, however, any of these perspectives may be criticized for their incompleteness and oversimplification, due in part to hybrids of migration or intersectionalities. While the aforementioned keywords outline traditional approaches to migration and mobility, a careful examination of mobility trajectories reveals far more complicated patterns.


*The Land Question in China* questions the inevitability and practicability of full-scale, land-intensive capitalist agriculture in China, whilst analyzing the labor-intensive industrious revolution as an alternative rural development path. It presents a critical account of the recent rise of agrarian capitalism as a force that would undermine hundreds of millions of people’s livelihoods. The book argues that vigorous rural development with broad access to land offers a solution to mitigate precarious urban employment and population pressure in the neoliberal era, while the transfer of land from villagers to large producers and urban investors will exacerbate these problems. Comparisons with South Africa and the East Asian economies of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan further illustrate this and help to develop a new interpretation of the industrious revolution and its contemporary relevance.

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2. Socialism, Market Reform, and Long Road to the Second Industrious Revolution

3. Urban Bias and Rural Crisis: the Land Question beyond the Countryside

4. Rise of Agrarian Capitalism and Future of the Industrious Revolution

5. South Africa in Comparison: Dispossession, Agrarian Capitalism, and Struggles for Land


Conclusion


“Samuel Cohn and Rae Blumberg have a new edited collection from Sage Publications out on the causes and effects of women’s economic power: *Gender and Development: The Economic Basis of Women’s Power*. It does what books on gender and development rarely do: looks at the **CAUSES** of women’s economic power – and then shows the effects of these causes. The book has essays from an all-star collection of top writers in the field of gender and development. Check out the Table of Contents!

The essays all contain new theoretical materials on women’s power – yet are simple enough to read for undergraduates to understand.

Get this book! It will change your mind!”

*Samuel Cohn*

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“Power of the Purse”: The Importance of Women’s Economic Power by Rae Lesser Blumberg and Samuel Cohn

Armed Actors, the Commodification of Women and the Destruction of Childhood: Understanding the Connections between Predatory Sexuality and the Violence of Capital in Colombia by Jasmin Hristov

Created Biology of Gender Stratification by Rae Blumberg

Development, the State, and Gender: A Comparative Analysis of Iran and Tunisia by Valentine Moghadam

Poverty, Water, Sanitation Insecurities and the Challenges of Maintaining Menstrual Hygiene by Rita Jalali

Male Preference and Women’s Economic Power: How Men’s Choices Open or Close Occupations For Women by Samuel Cohn

Women on the Fast Track? Coloniality of Citizenship and Embodied Social Mobility by Manuela Boațcă and Julia Roth

Gender through the Looking Glass: The Role of Low-Status Men in the Production of Global Gender Violence and Racial and Ethnic Bigotry by Kevin T. Leicht and Phyllis L. Baker

War, Women, and the Aftermath: Finding Resilience in Rwanda, Bosnia and Nepal by Marie E. Berry

“No Way Out: Women in Nepal Trapped in Cycles of Poverty, Gender Inequality, and Economic Disenfranchisement” by Jennifer Rothchild and Priti Shrestha Piya

Authentic Activism: Domestic Workers’ as Global Development Agents by Jennifer N. Fish and Justin Sprague
Workshop report
CSDI International Workshop 2019
by Irina Tomicu-Dubrow

In March 2019, the annual Comparative Survey Design and Implementation Workshop (CSDI, cstdiworkshop.org) took place at The Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IFiS), Warsaw, Poland (March 18-20). CSDI enjoys high scientific recognition in the field of comparative survey methodology, as they provide guidelines and best practices for all elements that form the lifecycle of multicultural surveys (ccsg.isr.umich.edu). CSDI annual workshops constitute a forum and platform of collaboration for scholars involved in research relevant for comparative survey methods. This year, over 45 scholars from different disciplines and countries participated. The 2019 CSDI Program and Abstracts of presentations are available on CSDI’s website: https://cstdiworkshop.org/

Upcoming event
The 8th World Sustainability Forum: WSF 2020
14-19 September 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

„September 2020 marks the 5th birthday of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. If it were a child and given the right circumstances, it would now have developed fine motor skills, be able to stand on one foot for 10 seconds, have long conversations, and start to develop independence and responsibility. With the 8th World Sustainability Forum, we are not only celebrating a birthday, but are also taking stock of where we are in relation to a more sustainable world, what has worked, what has not yet worked, and where we need to go next.

Sustainability has gained considerable traction: Many countries have integrated sustainability and environmental protection as part of their national development agenda, many businesses have realized the considerable long-term potential in sustainable development, and many research agendas have aligned with sustainability goals. It is now time for the research, policy, and business communities to enter into enduring dialog and to embrace greater global responsibilities. With this event, we hope to contribute to building a platform and network for a sustainability agenda that fosters partnerships among stakeholders beyond the boundaries of academic disciplines, narrow national agendas, and quarterly spreadsheets. The quest is to conceive of ways to assure long-term sustainable development for our people, our planet, as well as societal and corporate profit. […]” Source: https://sciforum.net/conference/WSF-8

The RC09 member - Max Bergman, Professor of Social Research and Methodology, University of Basel, Switzerland - serves as a Forum’s co-Chair.
“The Fourth Basel Sustainability Forum: Health (BSF 2019) took place in the Aula of the Kollegienhaus of the University of Basel, Switzerland, on 3 June 2019. The forum kicked off with opening statements by three young climate activists from the Klimastreikbewegung Basel, reminding everyone that there is no alternative to climate action but to act now! Up next with official opening statements were Lukas Engelberger, Head of the Department of Health Canton Basel-Stadt and member of the Swissmedic Agency Council, and Torsten Schwede, Vice President for Research at University of Basel, each with considerations of sustainability issues regarding health in their context, i.e., policy and research, respectively. These introductions opened the floor for our presenters to make a case for concerning ourselves with sustainable health goals. […]

The variety of speakers made visible the many facets of the umbrella category ‘sustainable health’, which encompasses topics such as pollution and education, connects the pharma and medical device industry and relates directly to global communication and urbanization. To take the example of urbanization: how is health related to cities? According to Jeff Smith, one of every four deaths is related to how our cities are designed and maintained. This example shows that to begin formulating the sustainable, innovative solutions we so desperately need, academia, politics and the private sector must come together. The BSF location Basel is a hub of stakeholders, big players of the pharmaceutical industry (including Novartis and Roche), the health insurance industry, medical device companies, and research, academic institutions and foundations. In addition, international organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization are just a train ride away in Geneva. Through collaborations with some of the above mentioned groups, our experts truly believe that innovative health solutions are near at hand—interoperable, global solutions that can be at our fingertips with just the touch of a button. We are, as the climate striker youth and each presenter made clear, at a turning point and we can chose to act or ignore, but they choose to act.”

Source: [https://sciforum.net/conference/BSF-4](https://sciforum.net/conference/BSF-4)

The RC09 member Max Bergman, Professor of Social Research and Methodology, University of Basel, Switzerland served as the Forum’s co-chair, together with Hans-Florian Zeilhofer, Professor, Associate Vice President Innovation, University of Basel and Senior Consultant, Head of Research in mouth-, jaw- and face surgery, University Hospital of Basel, Switzerland.

Check the Forum’s website (above) for more details, including the online slides of some conference presentations.
CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Upcoming event
Global Development Conference “Knowledge for Sustainable Development: The Research-Policy Nexus”
23-25 October, 2019, Bonn, Germany

„The Global Development Network (GDN) is hosting its 19th global development conference on the 23-25 October 2019, to facilitate the research-policy interface in pursuit of the SDGs. The conference will also mark GDN’s 20th anniversary since its launch at the World Bank Development Conference in 1999. […]

At Bonn, four interrelated conference themes will be discussed:

⇒ From research to sustainable development action: interdisciplinary research, knowledge sharing, evidence brokering
⇒ The global and shared challenges of sustainable development: migration, climate change, health, etc.
⇒ Next frontier challenges: Big Data, AI, digital transformation
⇒ Greater local ownership and sustainability: implications for research policies and funding […]

The global conference in Bonn will ask how to strengthen the capacity of the current system of development research to meet new development challenges and facilitate sustainability. It will showcase high level, truly inclusive evidence-based debates on current development challenges and priorities. It will share knowledge for development by highlighting innovative, high-quality, original and topical research on development, and providing developing and transition countries with a voice in shaping global policy debates on sustainable development. […]

The conference will target 400 participants, drawn from a diverse group of researchers, policymakers, representatives of international organizations, civil society, development practitioners and the private sector. […]”

Source: http://www.gdn.int/conference2019
Upcoming event
Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology
Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14-18, 2020

ISA Forum of Sociology is designed as a mid-term meeting of Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups combined with the Business Meeting of the ISA Research Council. The forthcoming Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology will be organized by Geoffrey Pleyers, current ISA Vice-President Research, in collaboration with the ISA Research Coordinating Committee and the Brazilian Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Hermilio Santos, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Duties and Deadlines for Program Coordinators and Session Organizers in 2019

January 15, 2019 24:00 GMT
Announcing Program Coordinators: RC/WG/TG provide name and contact details of Program Coordinator to the ISA Secretariat isa@isa-sociology.org

February 4 – 15 March 2019 24:00 GMT
Call for Sessions
RC/WG/TG session proposer must submit session's description on-line via Confex platform.

March 16 – 8 April 2019 24:00 GMT
Final list of Sessions: RC/WG/TG Program Coordinator must finalize a list of sessions. Sessions format, titles, descriptions and the language in which they will be held (English, French or Spanish), as well as contact details of session organizers (name, affiliation, country, e-mail) will be available on the ISA conference platform run by Confex.

April 25 – 30 September 2019 24:00 GMT
Abstracts submission: Participants and organizers of invited sessions must submit abstracts on-line via Confex platform. Abstracts must be submitted in English, French or Spanish. Only abstracts submitted on-line will be considered in the selection process.

October 7 – 25 November 2019 24:00 GMT
Abstracts selection and re-locations

December 2, 2019 24:00 GMT
Notification letters: Confex sends notification letters to: Authors and co-authors of accepted abstracts and Authors of rejected abstracts

Source: https://www.isa-sociology.org
RC09 sessions at the ISA Forum of Sociology
Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14-18, 2020

➤ Migration Tendencies in the Global Era
➤ Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Planning in Coastal Megacities
➤ Corruption in Education and Health Sectors across the Globe
➤ Eco-Villages As Alternative Models for Sustainable Development?
➤ Global Management Practices in Emergent Economies
➤ History and Sociology Meet Development and Democracy
➤ Innovative Research in the Sociology of Development
➤ Redistributive Policies That Target Poverty and Inequalities: Exploration of Socially Inclusive Vs. Socially Corrosive Transformations
➤ Research Frontiers on Gender and Development: Exploring Development, Work and Inequality from an Intersectionality Perspective
➤ Social Media and Political Mobilisation: Findings and Methodological Challenges
➤ The Informal Sector: Interrogating Persistence, Impediments, and Policies
➤ The Infrastructure of Development? China’s Belt and Road Initiative in the Global South
➤ Understanding Development: Perspectives from the Global South
➤ University Training in Social Transformations and Sociology of Development

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Universal history has been marked by migratory circuits, determining the world's demography as well as the social history of populations by cultural and technological loans. Migrants are influential agents of socio-cultural and political change both in their society of origin and that of destination. In the current global era, democracies appear to be leading away from universal rights - the progressive political overrepresentation of parties from the "right" political sphere in Europe and America accentuates a whole series of legal measures against international immigration. In this session, we invite researchers to participate with presentations that strive to spark new dialogues and to analyse current and new contemporary migratory tendencies, including but not limited to recent themes of transnational migrations such as social rights, feminine migration, political-environmental migration, technological migration and so forth.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Planning in Coastal Megacities

Coastal megacities pose several challenges for climate change adaptation and resilience planning. High densification of population, rapid expansion of the economy, consumption driven lifestyles make coastal megacities, especially those in the Global South which are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, heat stress, floods, and extreme weather events. In particular, these climate change-related hazards affect the most vulnerable groups -- urban poor, women, the young and elderly and PWDs -- in rapidly urbanizing cities with weak infrastructural and economic bases. Meanwhile, coastal megacities like Metro Manila and Mumbai in Asia or Rio de Janeiro in Latin America and their governments have constructed climate adaptation and mitigation policies to reduce the exposure and vulnerability of vulnerable groups/communities to climate risks. But the governments’ twin goals of climate risk reduction for the poor/vulnerable groups and continued capitalist development or business continuity of the private sector through resilience planning, highlight the resulting contradictions of these urban policies. Decentralized and privatized urban governance regimes seem to perpetuate social fragmentation, exclusion and inequality in these megacities. Through case studies and/or illustrative examples of these contradictory processes, this session hopes to unpack the complexities of this “double exposure” to climate change impacts and economic globalization of coastal megacities in the Global South.

This session invite abstracts that highlight the contradictions resulting from climate change adaptation initiatives for and by vulnerable groups alongside their governments (local-national) drive for climate risk reduction and continued trajectories of economic development and expansion.
Corruption in Education and Health Sectors across the Globe

Language: English
Ilona WYSMULEK, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland, ilona.wysmulek@gmail.com

Corruption in education and health sectors remarkably vary between and within countries across the globe. Defined broadly as misuse of entrusted power for private gains, corruption in public sector can take different forms, from bribery, informal payments and embezzlement in economic transactions to favoritism, cronyism, and nepotism in professional relations. In its old, new and emerging forms, corruption has harmful effects on development, effectiveness and efficiency of public services. Research shows that compared to other institutions, corruption in education and health sectors has a more direct influence on a general well-being and overall trust levels of citizens. Malfunctioning education systems contribute to the reproduction of social inequalities in a society and corrupt healthcare deepens the unequal chances for long and healthy lives.

This session welcomes papers that offer the new theory developments on studying public sector corruption, ideas of how to measure corruption, as well as empirical tests of causes and consequences of corruption in education and health sectors. This session seeks for country case studies from both developed and developing countries, as well as cross-national analysis of this persistent puzzle of corruption differences.

Redistributive Policies That Target Poverty and Inequalities: Exploration of Socially Inclusive Vs. Socially Corrosive Transformations

Language: English
Su-ming KHOO, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, suming.khoo@nuigalway.ie

This session explores social policies that target poverty and inequalities within development transformations and trajectories that occur during our current era of authoritarian, anti-redistributionist, classist, racist, and misogynist political irruptions and interruptions. We complement the work being done by RC09 scholars on the problem of political voice, inequality, development, and social transformations with qualitative and critical analysis of redistributive policies and categorization processes. These policies and processes include, among others, consequential and relational effects of conditional cash transfers (CCTs), categorical equalisation and categorical differentiation or cleavage. We interrogate their proposed role as compensatory and palliative income redistributive measures, and as socio-economic redistributive measures with potentially socially transformative effects.

Redistributive programmes rose to prominence in the 1990s and 2000s, but since the 2010s they have experienced reversals and unanticipated dynamic transformations towards anti-inclusionary and reactionary trajectories. Whereas some redistributive policies are publicized as inclusive, they tend to ignore intersectionality and other inherent social realities (such as sexism and racism), and through means intended and unintended, these policies can become socially corrosive. This session aims to uncover and explain how policies and process dynamics create political path-dependencies.
Global Management Practices in Emergent Economies

Language: English
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Habibul KHONDKER, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates, habib.khondker@gmail.com

In this session, we want to explore the type of management approaches that are practiced in selected emerging countries. Papers presented in this session will explore how companies, subsidiaries, and enterprises become profitable and grow in emerging countries by incorporating globalized norms and standards of management with the local ways of doing business. These processes of adaption are considered as globalization or hybridization.

We want to demonstrate how hybrid and innovative forms of private companies’ management can be shaped by the mobility of people, capital, goods and knowledge. We also want to demonstrate that local business practices (traditions, social networks, so-called “poor” governance, and “insufficient” managerial skills) are not obstacles to development but may create economic opportunities.

Understanding of this new approach to management can be achieved through the following strategies:

- Collaborative empirical research across cultures by applying similar research approaches;
- By examining the background, the education and the career of business leaders and managers of industrial and commercial enterprises of selected countries;
- By collecting ethnographic data and producing business related and organization-based case studies from which it will be possible to develop a theoretical framework on how business is conducted, and organizations are managed in emergent economies.

This will allow advancing a cutting-edge, empirically grounded theoretical framework on business and management practices in emergent countries. We will accept papers that present research on the above described topics.

History and Sociology Meet Development and Democracy

Language: English
Habibul KHONDKER, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates, habib.khondker@gmail.com
Veronica MONTECINOS, Pennsylvania State University, USA, vxm11@psu.edu

This session will explore the relationship between knowledge and social processes in the context of debates on development and democracy in Asia and Latin America. The session welcomes papers that aim to examine the globalization of disciplinary knowledge production from the perspective of history and sociology. Of particular interest are comparative papers analyzing the impact of transnational academic networks, discourses and practices on shifting notions of democracy and development in these two regions.
Research Frontiers on Gender and Development: Exploring Development, Work and Inequality from an Intersectionality Perspective

Language: English and Spanish
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The relationships among economic growth, gender, development, work and equality/inequality are crucial in gender and development research. It is important, however, to approach these issues with intersectionality in mind: Social class, race-ethnicity, disability, family structure and geographically linked traditional constraints vs. opportunities affect female vs. male life outcomes. Specifically, productive and reproductive labor and intersectional characteristics remain critical for understanding how and why gendered well-being and societal position change over time. Some scholars view work as a path to independence and recognition that can elevate women’s status vis-à-vis men. Others emphasize that the kind of work women do, under what conditions, and the rewards this labor secures are highly variable, reflecting intersectional inequalities. Another crucial factor is whether the work generates income under the woman’s control. If affirmative, she has greater equality; if not, she may be appreciated but not more equal. We invite contributions from scholars studying intersectionality, women’s work, gendered labor and equality, very broadly conceived. We welcome papers addressing questions, such as: How is women’s work, and its relationship to development, changing? To what extent do work, employment and income mitigate or exacerbate gender equality/inequality for different intersectional subgroups? Do these patterns vary within the Global South and/or across the North-South divide? How do institutions, e.g., the state and the labor market, plus regional factors shape the relationships among gender, work, inequality and development? How – and where – does women’s work and economic empowerment vs. disempowerment promote – or harm – development? Papers welcome in English or Spanish.

Understanding Development: Perspectives from the Global South

Language: English
Hasan MAHMUD, Northwestern University in Qatar, Qatar, hasan.mahmud@northwestern.edu

This open session seeks to contribute to understanding development broadly defined. This will include all possible ways of exploring the meaning of development as experienced in the developing countries through grassroots initiatives by local actors and conceptual/discursive formulations emanating from regional/local sources of scholarly entities including universities, research organizations, NGOs, etc. Papers focusing on how these understandings are shaped by the local-global interactions of structures and processes will be particularly welcome. Papers may be conceptual, empirical, or both offering critical assessment of conventional knowledge about development and new conceptualization.
The Informal Sector: Interrogating Persistence, Impediments, and Policies

Language: English
Brian DILL, University of Illinois, USA, dill@illinois.edu

The purpose of this panel is to interrogate the persistence of the informal sector, the potential impediments to entering and moving within it, and the policies that endeavor to shape it.

Contributions that offer empirically-grounded, both quantitative and qualitative, perspectives on the informal sector, its relations, and its prospects are encouraged.

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The Infrastructure of Development? China’s Belt and Road Initiative in the Global South

Language: English
Ijlal NAQVI, Singapore Management University, Singapore, ijlalnaqvi@smu.edu.sg

China’s One Belt, One Road strategy entails an ambitious program of international infrastructure investments which aim to develop China’s western provinces while expanding Chinese trade and influence across Europe, Asia, and Africa. The infrastructure projects serve as large injections of capital which reshape existing fields of contestation towards an external engagement. Which local and regional actors can secure an advantage? Will the already marginalized be further excluded? These questions will play out differently in different regions and political contexts.

Can states of the Global South, with their often limited organizational capacity, channel these large scale infrastructure projects into delivering inclusive prosperity under a legitimate political order? In Pakistan, Baloch insurgents claim that Gwadar port will further reinforce Punjabi dominance, while the Orange line metro in Lahore has encountered opposition from civic groups highlighting the risks to a UNESCO world heritage site. In Kashgar, state directed projects have attracted Han migrants to a region largely populated by the Uighur Muslim minority group. In Sri Lanka, the 99 year lease of the Hambantota port to China as part of a debt-equity swap represents a cautionary tale for other countries tempted to accept Chinese debt financing for expensive infrastructure projects.

How will this wave of infrastructure projects serve to achieve goals of state transformation and human development? We encourage the submission of empirically grounded studies of the development impact of infrastructure projects under the BRI.
Social Media and Political Mobilisation: Findings and Methodological Challenges

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

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, blogs etc. are now an important part of political mobilisation, means of protest and may be decisive factor in elections. What produces the specific power of social media campaigns? How do we deal with the fact that social media offers the possibility of fictional characters and/or radicalised political positions enunciated?

Eco-Villages As Alternative Models for Sustainable Development?

Language: English
Eva GERHARZ, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany, eva.gerharz@rub.de
Antje DANIEL, University of Vienna, Austria, antje.daniel@uni-bayreuth.de

While Western-style development has been criticised for their hegemonic character, international and national development actors have continued to promote a “neo-liberal” development paradigm. Amidst this tension, resistance against conventional development has gained prominence. Activists are not just offering alternative models but explore new ways to pursue sustainable forms of living and modes of production in a prefigurative manner. Thus we are witnessing an increasing number of initiatives creating eco-villages as alternative spaces of development to establish new values, norms, forms of sustainable and social and economic solidarity. While some eco-villages explicitly position themselves against neoliberal development, others adopt common spiritual or religious ideas based on alternative concepts of nature. This is not a local phenomenon. Rather, we observe that eco-villages use transnational networks and spaces for thinking about their visions of a sustainable future on a global scale.

We seek contributions which investigate the prefigurative politics inclined in the projects and relating it to new and alternative ideas of how democratic procedures can ensure alternative ways of sociality. We are further interested in how the very idea of development is negotiated between the involved actors, e.g. the people living and running the village, local politicians and administrators, the state, business partners. We also seek contributions displaying innovative empirical perspectives on eco-villages, probing new methodological approaches. Therefore, we are calling for both conceptual as well as empirical contributions that shed light on the relationship between "new" and "old" development ideas from a structural and from an actor-centered perspective.
University Training in Social Transformations and Sociology of Development

Language: French and English
Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, University of Rennes 2, France, uschuerkens@gmail.com
Samuel COHN, Texas A and M University, USA, s-cohn@tamu.edu

This session intends to discuss recent training of the next generation of sociologists in social transformations and sociology of development at universities worldwide.

Some of the possible themes: What are the topics that should be included to educate the next generation of sociologists? What are possible PhD subjects in these troubled times? What is particular for your geographic region? How can we precise the changes over the last decades in this field? What are the main authors to be discussed? What are the professional challenges in this field? How do globalization, global financial flows, mass movements, and popular political parties influence social transformations? What are the differences and similarities of social transformations and Sociology of development in the Souths and the Norths?

Papers should be based on recent or planned university training on social transformations and sociology of development. Presentations from experienced and young scholars are looked for. The intention is to clarify this field of research and the necessary and possible educational outcomes for universities worldwide.

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Innovative Research in the Sociology of Development

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

This is an open topic panel in the Sociology of Development. It is open to any new research finding in any sub-area of the discipline. These would include the theory of development, gender and development, globalization and development, population and development, the state and development, the political economy of development, race and ethnicity and development, environment and development criminology and development, conflict and development or any other reasonable sub-area not mentioned here. It is open to all sociological methodologies, qualitative or quantitative, micro or macro. It is open to all theoretical perspectives. It can involve the Global South or the Global North and any region or country within those. It can involve any historical period, including the present day. If you have good work you want to present at Porto Alegre, and the other panels just don’t fit, feel free to submit your work to this session. We are looking for the most exciting and newest advances in the Sociology of Development. If your material is original and important, we want to see it.
Today political expression is plentiful, electronic, and varied, yet around the world, democracy’s stakeholders are concerned about a decline in democracy’s well-being, the precariousness of the world economy, and the stubborn persistence of inequalities.

Political voice can be defined as the expression of needs and interests within the political system. Expression varies in form and magnitude, depending on position in the political power structure (e.g. everyday citizen, elite, NGOs, lobbying group), demographics and identity (urban/rural, intersections of gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and class, among others), and country and time. Voice’s desired audiences are the decision-makers who wield power at particular stations within the regime and everyday citizens who are swayed by political voice.

Social transformations impact the expression of voice; some groups’ voices are silenced during crises, and some previously marginalized groups suddenly emerge as vocal leaders. During change, conventional channels of voicing one’s interests might be ineffective, necessitating new and (re)invented means. Transformations offer new avenues for proximity: the protest outside a decision-maker’s window is loud but distant, whereas the voice of the lobbyist who whispers in the ears of decision-makers is publicly quiet but closer to the decision.

We ask social scientists to assess critical questions in political voice today: Whose voice? How loud is that voice? Who is listening? We seek papers bolstered by empirical analysis that address these questions. They can be quantitative or qualitative, comparative or case studies, and about any place in the world. We seek novel approaches and new insights.
Building Multi-Source Databases for Comparative Analyses: International Conference and Workshop in Warsaw
by Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, Polish Academy of Sciences

In Winter 2019, from the 16th to the 20th of December, the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, will host the international event Building Multi-Source Databases for Comparative Analyses. The event comprises two days of conference-style presentations on survey data harmonization in the social sciences, followed by a 3-day workshop on ex-post survey data harmonization methodology.

The Conference (December 16-17) aims to facilitate discussions and collaboration on papers on survey data harmonization, as part of a co-edited book that Christof Wolf (University of Mannheim, and GESI) and the PIs of the Survey Data Recycling project (asc.ohio-state.edu/dataharmonization) are planning. To give voice to both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary views on the challenges inherent in harmonization and how these challenges have been met, the conference will join contributions from sociology, political sciences, demography, economics, and health and medicine.

The following Workshop (December 18-20) will focus on substantive and methodological considerations that building multi-source databases for comparative analyses call for. A special session is devoted to missing data imputation. Stef van Buuren, professor of Statistical Analysis of Incomplete Data at the University of Utrecht and statistician at the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research TNO in Leiden (stefvanbuuren.name), will deliver the lectures on missing data imputation for survey datasets with a multi-level structure, focusing on solving comparability problems by multiple imputation. The Workshop will also discuss the SDR analytic framework and issues relevant for constructing datasets stemming from the SDR database, among others. This international event is organized jointly by the Survey Data Recycling (SDR) Project (NSF 1738502) and the project Political Voice and Economic Inequality across Nations and Time (POLINQ): politicalinequality.org/2017/09/21/new-project-political-voice-and-economic-inequality-across-nations-and-time.

Cross-national Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training program - CONSIRTSIRTOsou.edu of The Ohio State University and PAN provides organizational support.
Updates from the *Sociology of Development* Journal
by Jeff Hester, University of California Press

The editors of *Sociology of Development* are pleased to make a special issue on Global Health and Development, guest edited by Shiri Noy, available free to ISA RC09 readers. Please see the table of contents for this special issue here ([https://socdev.ucpress.edu/content/5/1](https://socdev.ucpress.edu/content/5/1)).

For more information about the journal, including to submit a paper or to recommend *Sociology of Development* to your library for purchase, please visit [socdev.ucpress.edu](https://socdev.ucpress.edu).

*Sociology of Development* is an international journal addressing issues of development, broadly considered. With basic as well as policy-oriented research, topics explored include economic development and well-being, gender, health, inequality, poverty, environment and sustainability, political economy, conflict, social movements, and more.

*Sociology of Development* promotes intellectual diversity within the study of development, with articles from all scholars of development sociology, regardless of theoretical orientation, methodological preference, region of investigation, or historical period of study, and encourages contributions from related disciplines including political science, economics, geography, anthropology, and health sciences.

For the developing world, access to *Sociology of Development* is free through Research4Life ([www.research4life.org](http://www.research4life.org)), a public-private partnership with the goal of reducing the knowledge gap between high-income countries and low- and middle-income countries by providing affordable access to critical scientific research.
Social Transformations and Sociology of Development

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