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RCO2 & ECONOMY & SOCIETY

isa
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS
OF SOCIOLOGY

横浜
YOKOHAMA

FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD:
CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY



13-19 July 2014

In a little over a year, the 18th World Congress of Sociology will convene in Yokohama. The conference theme, 'Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology,' is very well suited to RCO2. Not surprisingly, our members have responded enthusiastically and creatively to the Call for Sessions that was issued earlier this year. The result is a really promising slate of sessions centered around Economy and Society in all its rich meanings and ramifications.

The ISA Call for Papers was formally issued earlier this month, and it is now possible to submit your abstract online. Please go to <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/rc/rc.php?n=RCO2>, where you will find descriptions of all the RCO2 sessions that have been proposed and approved so far. These include:

- * 18 regular RCO2 sessions
- * 2 integrated, semi-plenary sessions in which RCO2 is one of three co-organizing groups
- * 9 joint sessions between RCO2 and other research committees.

The regular and integrated sessions are listed first, but I want to emphasize that all regular and joint sessions are open to you (panels for integrated sessions have already been determined).

Once you have perused the sessions, please submit your abstracts by hitting the 'on-line abstract submission' button at the top of the page, and following the links to RCO2 sessions.

Although the deadline for submitting abstracts to sessions is not until 30 September 2013, I encourage you to get an early start on this. It is helpful, from a conference-organizing standpoint, to have abstracts in hand well before the absolute deadline.

Also, now is the time for us to promote the RCO2 slate among colleagues, many of whom may wish to join RCO2 and to participate in the World Congress at Yokohama. Please encourage your colleagues to submit their work for consideration.

See you in Yokohama, next year!

Bill Carroll, RCO2 President, wcarroll@uvic.ca

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Forthcoming,
December 2013 Newsletter

Please send articles, book announcements and other material by November 15, 2013 to:

Heidi Gottfried
email: Heidi.gottfried@wayne.edu

Restructuring the ISA – RC02 members, please provide your input!



ISA President Michael Burawoy has advised us of the following:

‘Following detailed discussions over the last year, the ISA Executive Committee has voted to propose changes to the organization of our association. The proposed changes involve the re-composition of the program committee for World Congresses that will give wider representation to Research Committees and National Associations and enable future ISA Presidents to play a more direct role in shaping World Congress programs. If the proposals pass then they will take effect at the 2014 World Congress in Yokohama.

The proposals involve changes to the ISA Statutes and By-laws. This requires a vote from the Assembly of Councils, which is composed of the representatives of Research Committees and National Associations (in good standing).

Details of the change can be found at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/restructuring-of-the-isa/> where you will find the details of the proposed changes, rationales for and against the changes and the corresponding modifications to the ISA Statutes and By-laws. I urge you to study these documents with care and consult with your members about these changes. All 4 documents are in the three official languages of the ISA, but the English version will govern in case of ambiguity. At this same website you can add your comments and questions.’

RC02 members are most welcome to consult the document that details the proposed changes, and to send any comments to me. You may also leave a comment at the bottom of the web page mentioned above.

As RC02 president and thus a member of the Assembly of Councils, I will cast my vote before the deadline (in September), but after I have heard from our membership.

Bill Carroll
RC02 President
wcarroll@uvic.ca



Call for Papers
ISA RC02 Economy and Society
ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY
Facing an Unequal World. Challenges for Global Sociology
13-19 July 2014 -YOKOHAMA

The 26 sessions below are listed alphabetically by title. Joint sessions (and hosting RC) are identified in bold case.

Abstracts can be submitted online from June 3, 2013 - September 30, 2013 24:00 GMT.

Link to RC02 sessions: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/rc/rc.php?n=RC02>

Link to joint sessions: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/rc/joint-sessions.php>

Title: **Asian Capitalism(s): Origins, Transformations, and Perspectives**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Patrick Ziltener, University of Zurich, pziltener@hotmail.com

This session invites analyses of the processes that led to the "rise of Asia" out of (semi-)colonial dependency, the trajectories and institutional forms that enabled an increasing number of Asian cities, regions and countries to become centers of globalized Capitalism.

1. Origins and Transformations of Asian Capitalism(s)

"State-directed capitalism", "administrative guidance of the economy", "developmental state", "Capitalism from below" - certainly, state regulation has been crucial for the capitalist take off in all Asian countries, but the relevant instruments and mechanisms have not been systematically compared yet. The ability to transform the state's role during the growth and development process seems to be essential. Without a powerful private economy - family-owned conglomerates, business networks or ethnic trading groups – and the search for market opportunities, the "Asian economic miracle" would not have been possible. However, in spite of all market-inspired reforms, Asian Capitalism(s) did not turn into systems modelled on economic liberalism.

2. Variety of Asian Capitalism

The rise of Asia challenges the comparative "Varieties of Capitalism" research, traditionally focussed on OECD-countries. Taking up arguments and analyses given in the Socio-Economic Review (SER) Special Issue - April 2013 "Bringing Asia into the Comparative Capitalism Perspective" would give insights into the puzzling variety of Asian Capitalism: just different stages of one or two basic "models" - or as many cases as countries? Do we observe convergence or divergence processes? Variety of Asian Capitalism – Variety of Modernities? How to deal analytically with the regional character of the "rise of Asia"?

3. Perspectives

Will Asian Capitalism(s) deepen the predominantly neo-liberal course of globalization or provide a corrective influence? With the increasing economic and political weight of Asia, do we witness the emergence of new, more equitable and inclusive post-US world order – or rather, as Slavoj Zizek suggests, "a world where the only alternative is either anglo-saxon neoliberalism or Chinese-Singaporean capitalism with Asian values"?

Title: **Boom and Bust: The Community Before, During and after Economic Prosperity** (Joint session between RC 02, Economy and Society, and RC03, Community Research, with RC03 hosting)

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations / **Joint session**

Language: English

Organizer: Sam Hillyard, Durham University, United Kingdom, sam.hillyard@durham.ac.uk

The session explores the impact of economic prosperity upon communities. Communities can benefit from the prosperity local resources afford them, but the rewards can be highly transitory. It invites papers bringing new empirical insight into our understanding of the processes of change before, during and after ‘booms’. Local resource is broadly conceived (mining, tourism, etc.). The notion of community is neither restricted to a physical nor geographic locale, but could be occupationally-defined, urban or activity-based. The notion of prosperity is also relative, and the session welcomes papers exploring small initiatives and examples of entrepreneurialism as well as globally-driven investment by established corporations and elites. Empirically, are there principles of best practices that can inform our approaches and what cumulative lessons might be learned? Theoretically, which models provide best insight across these micro, meso and macro events? All papers engaging with one or more of these themes are welcome.

Title: **Capital and the Environmental Crisis**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Georgina Murray, Griffith University, g.murray@griffith.edu.au

The session will feature investigations of capitalist responses to the global environmental crisis – their social, economic and political underpinnings and implications. Issues that might be addressed include the financialization of nature in carbon-trading schemes; the notions of eco-efficiency forwarded by groups like the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; environmental Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or Program Related Investments (PRI); and the possible fractional conflicts within capital over ecological issues. The session welcomes papers that explore the socio-ecological implications of the financial crisis of 2008ff. Across the entire range of issues, an important question to be addressed is, where is the class support for these initiatives likely to come from?

Title: **Complex Inequalities: Gendering Varieties of Capitalism and Varieties of Gender Regimes**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Heidi Gottfried, Wayne State University, Heidi.gottfried@wayne.edu

Feminist scholarship has made important strides, improving our understanding of the forces behind gender inequality by either advancing gender-sensitive perspectives on policy-making processes and comparative welfare state developments or offering rich case studies and theoretical contributions to analysis of work transformations. Alternative feminist approaches point to different aspects of policies and institutional arrangements that are consequential for explaining complex inequalities across countries. The session invites papers discussing current debates and new frameworks for analyzing varieties of both class and gender regimes. We welcome papers addressing critical questions about the dynamics of complex inequalities: What do we gain or lose from different methodological and interpretive strategies and from conducting research at different levels of analysis (micro, meso and macro)? What temporal concepts (such as tipping points) or complexity theory are appropriate? How do varieties of gender regimes affect different trajectories of capitalism? Does the social organization of care (structures of social reproduction) matter in explaining differences? What role and impact do gender politics and women’s mobilization have on trajectories of change?

Title: **Corporate Networks: Comparative and Transnational Perspectives**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Val Burris, University of Oregon, vburris@uoregon.edu

The social networks that knit together large corporations and that link corporations to other organizations and institutions have long been a fruitful object of sociological inquiry. This session casts a wide net, inviting papers on corporate-corporate networks, as well as corporate-noncorporate and corporate-state networks. Submissions that address changes in these networks across time, comparisons between countries, and/or transnational ties are particularly welcome.

Title: **The Culture and Currency of Money** (Joint session between RC 02, Economy and Society, and RC09, Sociology of Development and Social Transformations, with RC09 hosting)

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations / **Joint session**

Language: English

Organizer: Frederick F. Wherry, Columbia University, ffwherry@gmail.com

Since Viviana Zelizer's publication of *The Social Meaning of Money* (1994), there has been a growing recognition among social scientists that money, budgeting, and the creation of currencies have less to do with technical concerns and mathematical optimizations than with cultural codes and social relationships. Nonprofit organizations and government agencies have increasingly paid attention to how households categorize and prioritize their expenditures. Questions remain about how budget categories emerge and how priorities shift (or not) due to financial education. What exactly is culture and how does it mediate attempts to change budgeting practices? At the macro-level struggles ensue over what currencies should look like, which countries should belong in a currency community, and what the cultural characteristics are of those countries deemed most suitable for inclusion versus exclusion. These meaningful struggles at the household level and at the national and regional levels call for a culturally specific and socially situated analysis of money and social transformations. This session invites papers on the dynamics of money, currency, cultural characteristics, and social identities, broadly understood.

Title: **Environment & Development: Empirical Considerations**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Andrew Jorgenson, University of Utah, Andrew.jorgenson@soc.utah.edu

Relationships between the environment and forms of development are foundational topics for sociologists who work at the intersections of environmental sociology, political economy, economic sociology, and political sociology. This session invites papers that provide new theoretically-engaged empirical insights on environment and development relationships at any level of analysis, and of any methodological orientation.

Title: **Ethnography and the economy**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Daniel Fridman, Centro de Estudios Sociales de la Economía, UNSAM, Argentina, dgf2009@gmail.com

In the last few years, there has been a renewed interest in the close-up examination of economic life. Ethnographic methods have been crucial for recent research that sheds light on the workings of trade-floors and the financial world in general, the intersections between economy and culture, the conflictive relations between market and non-market exchanges, the relations between commodities and gifts, the uses of money and credit, the dynamics of informal economies, the world of economic policy-making and expertise, the complexity of currencies, the configuration of markets and economic subjects, and the nature of calculation in the economy, among other topics. This session invites innovative work based on substantial participant observation of economic life, broadly considered.

Title: **Exploitation, Dispossession and Mobilization: Land and Labor in the Global Political Economy** (Joint session between RC02, Economy and Society, and RC44, Labour Movements, with RC44 hosting)

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations / **joint session**

Language: English

Organizer: Sarah Swider, Wayne State University, sswider@gmail.com

What is the relation between accumulation by dispossession and the exploitation of labor? How do these two processes intersect to mobilize resistance? When do struggles over land create the most effective contestation of capitalist domination and when is the exploitation of labor a more powerful driver of resistance? Theorists from Marx to Polanyi to David Harvey have wrestled with these questions and they are central to the contemporary study of labor movements, especially in the global south. Land grabs are a central feature of development in Asia, Africa and Latin America. They take a variety of forms. Extractive investments by global corporations threaten rural communities and livelihoods. State sponsored industrial zones, business parks, and real estate development transform urban and peri-urban areas. Land grabs are intertwined with the creation of new forms of exploitation and marginalization of workers. This panel will examine how specific socio-economic, political, and historical arrangements shape the articulation of exploitation and dispossession and how this articulation shapes in turn the form and content of counter movements.

Title: **Futures of Post-Neoliberalism in a time of Global Crisis** (Joint session between RC02 Economy and Society, RC07 Futures Research, and RC09, Sociology of Development and Social Transformations, with RC09 hosting)

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations / **joint session**

Language: English

Organizers: Ulrike Schuerkens, RC09) (uschuerkens@gmail.com);
William K. Carroll (RC02) wcarroll@uvic.ca;
Markus S. Schulz (RC07) isarc07@gmail.com

Neoliberalism has become the focus of much public debate, as global financial crises continue under this economic order. For many observers, neoliberalism has exhausted its capacity as a hegemonic project. Yet alternatives are rather few. One may find them in the Occupy movement. This movement in its many forms all over the world has challenged the current neoliberal order, although its message defies codification. Another alternative that tries to reconstruct the global capitalist order takes the form of 'Andean capitalism' in several Latin American countries. Countries, such as those that comprise the ALBA space, attempt to construct an alternative hegemonic discourse and practice. In North Africa, the Arab spring required a democratic change of postcolonial regimes narrowly linked to neoliberal states of the North. In other countries, conflicts have turned around the cost of living and corruption, and not on the structural reform agenda tackled by the Occupy movement. Social protests are here likely to revolve around unmet expectations of populations who do not receive a sufficient socio-economic share from the prevailing political order.

Questions to be addressed include: What is post-neoliberalism? Does the global financial crisis herald a new economic era? Which avenues for public policy are opened up by the global financial crisis? Which possibilities are given for democratic participations of populations in the governance of States? This session will provide a forum for the articulation of competing answers to these questions and arguments from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

Title: **Gender, class and the Financial Crisis: Is Neoliberalism Gendered?**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizers: Sylvia Walby, University of Lancaster, S.Walby@lancaster.ac.uk
Heidi Gottfried, Wayne State University, Heidi.gottfried@wayne.edu

The 2008 financial crisis has continuing effects with the intensification of neoliberal attempts to restructure economy and society, especially where government budget deficits have developed. But there is a split between macro-level analysis of finance capital and feminist analysis of the experience of recession. Feminist and historical materialist theories need to re-engage after a period of separate development. This session seeks papers on gender, class and the financial crisis that address theoretical and empirical questions such as: Would it have made any difference if Lehman Brothers had been Lehman Sisters? How should feminist theory and historical materialism re-engage in the context of the crisis? Is the absence of women in financial decision-making an issue of culture, of democratic deficit, or more systemic? Is the crisis just a normal part of capitalism or a critical turning point in neo-liberalism? How can feminist theories of intersectionality be applied to macro-level questions concerning economic restructuring? Should the feminist gaze return to the economy from the analytical turn to culture? What are the implications of the political configurations emerging in the crisis for theories of gender and class? Is neoliberalism gendered?

Title: **Global Perspectives of Financialization**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Aaron Pitluck, Central European University and Illinois State University, Aaron.Pitluck@IllinoisState.edu

There is nothing like a good crisis to concentrate one's attention, and sociologists are no different in this regard. Since the last World Congress, there has been a flourishing of empirical research in the subfield of sociology of finance, most of it focused on the causes and consequences of the seizure of international financial markets in 2006-7, and the ongoing political economic oscillations in the Euro-zone. Reflecting these twin and interrelated crises (and a northern-bias in our discipline), most of this empirical research has been conducted in the United States, United Kingdom, and the European Union. This is understandable, but short sighted. Such scholarship tends to neglect ties between north and south within financial markets and organizations, as well as neglect unique processes found in the south. Moreover, research on financialization in the north tends to make unverified covering law statements regarding financialization in the south. This panel seeks to initiate a correction to this state of affairs. This call for papers solicits empirical research engaged with sociological theory that takes place in financial markets, organizations, or institutions outside of the United States and European Union. Research conducted in the global north is also welcome, as long as the paper's focus is on interlinkages with the global south. Proposals should theorize from empirical work, and therefore should indicate the paper's methodology, data, and argument.

Title: **Historical Formation of Social and Economic Inequalities**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Hiroko Inoue, Institute for Research on World-Systems, University of California, Riverside ,
hiroko.inoue@email.ucr.edu

This session seeks papers that are related to all the issues of stratification and inequality. The session is interested in wide range of topics that are relevant to stratification including income, class, migration, environment, education, family, gender, race, ethnicity, health, mobility, labor market, social networks, and others.

The session is open to various theoretical perspectives and methodologies. Papers relevant to the themes such as historical, comparative, and/or world-systems analyses on globalization, health, financial crisis, the impact of changing demographic landscape, natural/environmental disasters, and the like will be particularly welcome, but will not be limited to these themes and approaches. The papers addressing theoretical framework, conceptual and methodological issues on the study of stratification and inequality over long-run history are also welcome.

Structures of power, prestige, wealth and income at global level have been changed, and national stratification structures and processes have increasingly influenced by the growing integration of societies. Economic stress has imposed increasing challenges to vulnerable groups across societies. Those classic, ongoing and novel reconfigurations of inequality/stratification at different levels, time and space are the central issues of the session.

Title: **Labour, Climate, Economy and Social Struggle: Global Perspectives**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizers: Carla Lipsig-Mummé, York University, Carlalm@yorku.ca

Global warming is a universal concern, perhaps the greatest challenge facing work, workers and the planet in the 21st century. The failure of the 2009 Copenhagen conference ensures that the climate change that is already altering national economies, will continue to accelerate. The Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC (2007) estimates that agriculture, forestry, and industry produce 50% of GHGs without including energy or transportation emissions. The ILO's 2011 Towards a Greener Economy notes that 'over 80% of emissions (in the EU) originate from firms' production of goods'. While few countries in the Global North or the Global South ignore the social implications of climate change, labour and environmental movements have yet to effectively address the role of climate change in the world of work. Social policy is puzzlingly underdeveloped, as well.

What role can work, workers' organisations and their new and traditional allies play in the struggle to slow global warming?

This session brings together global research on responding to climate change: work, unions, politics and policy. Its goals are two-fold:

- Create a cross-national dialogue on what we know, and what we need to know;
- Stimulate the development of a global network for environmentalists, researchers and unions, to be housed with the Work in a Warming World research programme in Canada. www.workinawarmingworld.yorku.ca

Topics of particular, but not exclusive, interest are:

- Youth environmental activism and the workplace
- Public policy and industry strategy
- Bargaining for environmental responsibility: new ideas
- Impact of climate change in economic sectors, North and South.
- What would a greener industrial relations system look like?
- Climate migration, communities, and work
- Trade union initiatives: global union movement, national labour organisations, local action
- Barriers to trade union leadership in slowing global warming.

Title: **Military, Economy and Society**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizers: Jeffrey Kentor, University of Utah, kentor@soc.utah.edu
Andrew Jorgenson, University of Utah, Andrew.jorgenson@soc.utah.edu

The military establishment has a significant impact on economy and society world-wide. However, this impact is largely understudied in the social sciences. This panel invites papers that consider short or long term effects of the military on various dimensions of the social and economic structure, at any level of analysis (individual, national, regional, global). Examples include (among others) the military and 1) health 2) economic development and inequality 3) education 4) environment 5) migration 6) demographic shifts. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches will be considered.

Title: **Network Theory in East Asian Society**
Format: Panel session – a larger number of shorter interventions on a specific theme
Language: English
Organizer: Dennis McNamara, Georgetown University, mcnamard@georgetown.edu
 Jeonghan Kang, Yonsei University, yhakim@yonsei.ac.kr

Papers in this session draw on theories of networks relevant to East Asian society. We welcome empirical research highlighting the utility of the concept, the need for adaptation, or the fundamental revision of network theories. Extension of the concept to other topics of particular relevance in East Asia such as studies of social capital, of state-society relations, or of network dynamics in organization theory would likewise be relevant. An emerging dialogue on regional integration has spurred studies of cross-border networks, whether among consumers in the expanding Asian urban middle class, or of production networks moving products and technology across the region. Our goal is both a stronger empirical base and clearer theoretical direction. But the enterprise of refinement and refocusing of concepts for the East Asian context depends in part on a dialogue between East and West. Both in papers and discussions we hope to stimulate an exchange on network theory and application that facilitates new streams of research and interaction between theorists and those in empirical research.

Title: **Organizing the Production of Alternative Visions to Support Social and Eco-Justice** (Joint session between RC02, Economy and Society, and RC44, Labour Movements, with RC02 hosting)
Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations / **joint session**
Language: English
Organizers: William Carroll, University of Victoria, wcarroll@uvic.ca
 Peter Evans, University of California, Berkeley, pevans@berkeley.edu

Since the mid-1970s, but particularly since the 1990s, alternative think tanks, policy groups, popular institutes and other sites of counter-hegemonic knowledge production and mobilization have generated important ideas, both visionary and strategic, for a 'globalization from below' in which transnational social movements have often been leading protagonists. Groups such as the Transnational Institute (Amsterdam), Instituto Paulo Freire and Escola Nacional Florestan Fernandes (Sao Paulo), Focus on the Global South (Bangkok), Centre for Civil Society (Durban) and Asia Monitor Resource Centre (Hong Kong) have served as 'collective intellectuals', critiquing corporate agendas and promoting democratic alternatives to neoliberal globalization in contestations that often transect national borders. This panel session welcomes papers and presentations that explore the challenges and possibilities in organizing the production of alternative visions, strategies, critiques and modes of analysis to support social and eco-justice. How is counter-hegemonic knowledge produced, mobilized and articulated with on-the ground activism? What alternative projects and methodologies are emerging for strengthening anti-systemic forces? How does counter-hegemonic knowledge production contribute to a new left anti-capitalist politics and to the formation of new subjectivities from below? Papers that take up issues relating to labour movements and/or economy and society are particularly welcome, as are presentations from activist intellectuals directly engaged in the production of alternative visions and strategies.

Title: **Perspectives on the Political Economy of Development**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Salvatore Babones, University of Sydney, sbabones@sydney.edu.au

Scholars who are from or working in low-income countries, indigenous nations, and poor areas within rich countries often have perspectives on economy and society that differ dramatically from those of scholars based at well-resourced universities in rich countries. Scholars from both sides of the South-North divide can learn much from each other. Political economy is an area in which it is particularly important that views from both sides be heard. Though this session is organized by a scholar based at a well-resourced university in a rich country, it is organized with the intent of providing a global platform for the presentation and publication of perspectives originating in all parts of the world.

In addition to presentation at the World Congress, papers submitted for this session will also be considered for publication in an online peer-reviewed proceedings volume to be edited by the organizer. Prospective presenters who wish to see their papers published in this volume should submit a working paper of not more than 6000 words, plus an abstract of not more than 200 words. Submissions of abstracts without papers are also welcome, but these will be considered for presentation only. Submissions are welcome on any topic relating to economy and society, and may include research papers, theoretical essays, review articles, or other kinds of academic work. Submissions from all scholars (including those based at well-resourced universities in rich countries) are welcome and will be considered on an equal basis.

Title: **Resistance and Revolution in Global Historical Perspective**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizers: Christopher Chase Dunn, University of California Riverside, chriscd@urc.edu
André C. Drainville, Université Laval, Andre.Drainville@soc.ulaval.ca

Sociological thinking about resistance to capitalist world ordering has for the most part remained focused on the present conjuncture, only venturing beyond the neo-liberal world order by borrowing categories from cosmopolitan ideologies, or by thinking in very abstract terms. Thus stuck in false abstractions, it has remained very much a prisoner of the idea of continuity, incapable of looking beyond hegemonies (that of transnational capital in the present moment, and before: *Pax Americana*, *Pax Britannica*...), at prospects for revolutionary change.

This session gathers scholar from different analytical traditions (world-systems analysis, Gramscian IPE, material geography, anthropology, transnational sociology, radical public sociology), who have in common their ambition to stretch the historical imagination of contemporary thinking about world order and revolution/resistance. Thinking globally, with reference to the broad tradition of historical sociology, organizers hope to triangulate findings, and thus contribute a more substantial understanding of world orders and resistances.

Title: **Searching for Sustainable Alternative Economies in the 21st Century: Cases and Prospects** (Joint session between RC02, Economy and Society, and RC24, Environment and Society, with RC02 hosting)

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations/ **joint session**

Language: English

Organizer: Michelle F. Hsieh, Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, mhsieh17@gate.sinica.edu.tw

This is a call for papers that study the kinds of initiatives for sustainable economic activities that attempt to remedy problems resulting from the endless-growth driven capitalist economies (e.g. increasing inequality, environmental degradation, over- concentration of corporate power etc.). Sustainable development is usually associated with envisioning viable post-globalization economic systems that emphasize sustainability and social equity and often involve multiple contestations and pluralist forms of institutional design. Various terms have been applied to these alternative initiatives that differentiate them from profit- driven capitalist economies, such as social economies, social innovations, sustainable development or alternative globalization. Empirically, there have been a growing number of studies on these social experiments and alternative practices, with examples ranging from varieties of green economy initiatives and fair trade to co-operatives and various other socioeconomic practices. A common thrust among these alternatives is that they address collective human needs and are not subject to the endless-growth driven logic of market economies. But what are the trade-offs, possible tensions and contradictions of these alternatives vis-à-vis the current market economy?

This session aims to address the working mechanisms, governance structure and organizing principles of these on-going social experiments or initiatives, the social conditions for their success or failure and their limitations. The purpose is to identify mechanisms for change, viabilities for alternative economies, their relationship with the world economy and prospects for transforming global capitalism. It invites empirical works on these alternative economies at the local, regional or national levels that examine how they can be articulated in relation to market economies. It calls for case studies from both developed and developing countries, but special attention will be given to responses from non-core countries, especially cases from East Asia (though not limited to there).

Title: **The Sociology of Consumers and Consumption**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizers: Dr. Florian Kohlbacher, German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), kohlbacher@diptokyo.org
Dr. Takeshi Matsui, Hitotsubashi University, t.matsui@r.hit-u.ac.jp

Consumption plays an increasingly important role in social life and social thought. The sociological study of consumers and consumption has therefore become a growing, albeit still under-researched, strand within sociology. Conversely, sociological theories, concepts, methodologies and approaches are widely embraced in consumer research in the area of marketing. This session aims to bring together sociologists interested in consumption-related phenomena and consumer researchers interested in the sociological aspects of consumption behavior to discuss the latest trends, issues, methodological approaches in the study of the sociology of consumers and consumption. Topics covered by the session include, but are not limited to: Consumer Culture Theory, consumer socialization, a life course perspective of consumption, social media and consumption.

Title: **Solidarity Economy Alternatives: Vision, Practice and Theory**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizers: Vishwas Satgar, University of the Witwatersrand, Vishwas.Satgar@wits.ac.za
Michelle Williams, University of the Witwatersrand, Michelle.Williams@wits.ac.za

This panel invites papers that look broadly at the solidarity economy. The solidarity economy is an important transformative initiative rooted in myriad experiments around the world that are democratic, values-based, and movement-driven. Various institutional forms such as worker run factories, communal enterprises, community financing mechanisms and cooperatives are all being networked into grassroots solidarity economy processes. Moreover, the solidarity economy has engendered various theoretical approaches, methodologies, movement building strategies, and international solidarities. The World Social Forum has also become an important space to diffuse and share solidarity economy ideas and practices. In the context of the global crisis, the solidarity economy has emerged in various parts of the world with immense potential to disrupt capitalist-centered political economies. Is the emergent political economy of the solidarity economy transforming civil society-state-economy boundaries? Is it redistributing power to grassroots social forces? Is the solidarity economy engendering a new logic to reproduce life, meet human needs and end ecological destruction? We welcome submissions on solidarity economy initiatives from all over world and on all aspects of the solidarity economy.

Title: **South-South Relationships and Global (In)equality**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Astra Bonini, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University Anb59@columbia.edu

Assessments of global inequality have historically focused on systems of unequal exchange and structural imbalances of power between the North and the South. However, South-South flows of trade, immigration, investment and aid are on the rise as emerging economies expand economic activity beyond their borders and seek labor, natural resources and markets in the less developed countries of the South. The increasing significance of these relationships on a global scale raises questions about the implications for global inequality and calls for an increase in analytical attention to South-South interactions. Do these relationships present opportunities for greater equality in exchange, employment and wealth accumulation relative to North-South relationships? Or are South-South relationships setting the stage for greater divergence within the Global South and new systems of unequal exchange and power imbalances similar to those between the North and the South? This session invites papers that examine these and related questions using quantitative or qualitative methods of analysis. Comparative analysis is especially encouraged.

Title: **Structural Mechanisms and Historical Contingencies: Global Stratification and its Discontents** (Joint session between RC02, Economy and Society, and RC28, Social Stratification, with RC28 hosting)

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations / **joint session**

Language: English

Organizers: Hiroko Inoue, UC Riverside, USA, hiroko.inoue@email.ucr.edu
Haya Stier, Tel Aviv University, Israel, hayastier@gmail.com

As global sociology faces an unequal world, it seeks to understand the combinations of structural mechanisms and historical contingencies and rational choices that generate, reproduce, and challenge inequities. Global sociology has come to incorporate various sub-fields of traditional sociology at agent, distinct local and international levels and has also developed theoretical perspectives to explain inequality/stratification, integration, and disparity.

National stratification structures and processes have been altered by globalization, and global structures of power, prestige, wealth and income are also changing. Some have argued that a single global society with a global class structure is emerging. Such ongoing and novel reconfigurations of inequality/stratification at different levels, time and space have been a central question of global sociology.

This joint session seeks papers that are related to all the issues of stratification in the context of globalization as well as global stratification. The session is interested in wide range of topics that are relevant to stratification including income, class, migration, environment, education, family, gender, race, ethnicity, health, and the like. The session is open to various theoretical perspectives in sociology including, but not limited to, political economy and others.

Title: **Taking Stock, Looking Ahead: Challenges and Innovations in Contemporary Counter-Hegemonic Politics** (Joint session between RC02, Economy and Society, and RC07, Futures Research, with RC07 hosting)

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations / **joint session**

Language: English

Organizers: William K. Carroll (RC02) wcarroll@uvic.ca;
Markus S. Schulz (RC07) isarc07@gmail.com

The crises of neoliberal capitalism pre-date the 2008 financial meltdown, as do the critiques of neoliberal globalization. 2014 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Zapatista uprising. How, in the ensuing two decades have transnationally linked civil society actors attempted to move beyond episodic protest, to advocate alternatives (economic, ecological, political and cultural) that open spaces for radical transformation? What are the theoretical and practical challenges in pressing for radical change in a world still dominated in many ways by the institutions and narratives of neoliberal capitalism? What alternative projects do collective actors in the Global South and the Global North articulate, and how effective have their efforts been? How can they overcome the linguistic and cultural barriers, and how do they manage to network across borders and vastly different local contexts? How do they interact with transnational elites, the mass media, and repressive forces? What can we learn by comparing experiences and aspirations? – This session welcomes scholars working on any of these aspects from a theoretical, empirical, and/or normative viewpoint.

Title: **Think Tanks as Key Spaces of the Global Structure of Power**

Format: Paper presentation session – 4-5 20-minute presentations

Language: English

Organizer: Alejandra Salas-Porras, National Autonomous University of Mexico, asalasporras@hotmail.com

The purpose of this session is to explore the dynamics of think-tanks networks, the coalitions created to advance the social purpose they implicitly or explicitly endorse and, in particular, the spaces they occupy in the structures and fields of power at the national, regional and global level. Think tanks—broadly defined as organizations specialized in public policy analysis—have become instrumental in re-articulating private, state, media and academic elites to shape public policies affecting populations in most of the world. They have weaved networks at the national, regional and global levels, within which public and private interests are redefined; discussions are organized to delineate public agendas and reach ideological consensus; and compact teams of technocrats are brought together with public officers to push such agendas forward. They often concentrate enormous expertise and organizational resources and function as nurseries for ideas, knowledge and technocrats. However, they are far from being homogeneous as they espouse different ideologies and social purposes, deal with different issues and engender contradictions and divisions within the networks. They can contribute decisively to intensify risks and inequalities with the reforms and policies they recommend and defend; or instead, they can struggle to construct alternative strategies to the most acute problems facing societies, including the distribution of human, social, economic, security and environmental rights. They can push forward a market-led agenda, or an agenda to contain and resist market forces from liberal or even anti-systemic perspectives. But in this regard their actions are frequently jumbled and timid.

Link to two integrative sessions (These sessions are not open to abstract submission): <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/integrative-sessions.htm>

Precarious Work and Employment Risks in East Asia
The Global Migration of Gendered Care Work

I. *Precarious Work and Employment Risks in East Asia*

Session Organizers

- RC02 Economy and Society
Karen A. SHIRE, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany, karen.shire@uni-due.de
- RC44 Labor Movements
Andreas BIELER, University of Nottingham, UK, andreas.bieler@nottingham.ac.uk
- RC30 Sociology of Work
Byoung-Hoon LEE, Chung-Ang University, South Korea, bhlee@cau.ac.kr Proposal

Session Coordinator

Karen A. SHIRE, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany, karen.shire@uni-due.de, RC02 Economy and Society

Not open for submission of abstracts.

The panel addresses the impact of work-based insecurities and rising social inequalities within and across nations, with a specific regional focus on East Asia. Standing's work shows that precarious work involves an interaction of seven dimensions of economic insecurities, pointing to the need for an integrated understanding of the link between precarious work and social inequalities.

The integrated panel enables a focus on multiple insecurities and how they interact to produce precarious work relations, in reference to working conditions and the experience of social exclusion (RC30 Work), the links between de-regulation, liberalization and the individualization of employment risks (RC02 Economy and Society), but also the development of interest representation and social organizations for supporting labor market outsiders (RC44 Labor Movements).

The location of the ISA Conference in Yokohama is an opportunity to highlight Asian sociologists and the specific regional contexts of precarious work, to discuss issues, such as Sen's thesis, that Japan is a model for other Asian economies in achieving social inclusion, or the loss of social protections through the decline of state-owned enterprises, as well as the intersection of inequalities generated by internal and foreign migration

II. *The Global Migration of Gendered Care Work*

Session Organizers

- RC02 Economy and Society
Heidi GOTTFRIED, Wayne State University, USA, ag0921@wayne.edu
- RC32 Women in Society
Evangelia TASTSOGLOU, Saint Mary's University, Canada, evie.tastsoglou@smu.ca
- RC44 Labour Movements
Jennifer Jihye CHUN, University of British Columbia, Canada, jj.chun@utoronto.ca

Session Coordinators

RC44 Labour Movements
Jennifer Jihye CHUN, University of British Columbia, Canada, jj.chun@utoronto.ca

RC02 Economy and Society
Heidi GOTTFRIED, Wayne State University, USA, ag0921@wayne.edu

Not open for submission of abstracts.

Care work, a form of unpaid and paid labour performed primarily by women, is a major site of job growth across both the developing and developed world. The increasing demand for care workers in a variety of sectors – from private homes to long-term elder care facilities to public hospitals – has contributed to the global migration of care workers.

Transnational flows of women workers, especially from poorer migrant-sending countries to wealthier migrant-receiving countries, raise critical questions about the dynamics of new forms of inequality, subordination and commodification associated with globalized care chains.

- How do global hierarchies influence the patterns and characteristics of care migration?
- In what ways do changing demographics, institutional policies and cultural practices affect the supply and provision of care across national borders?
- What are the social costs and consequences of global care chains for care workers and their families?
- How are care workers attempting to challenge the unequal relations of power and authority that underpin low-paid and precarious forms of care work?
- What are the means and modes of organizing among care workers?

To investigate the intersecting avenues of inquiry among gender, political economy, migration, social inequality, labor movements, and work, this integrative session draws on academic and community researchers from three primary Research Committees (RC44, RC02, RC3).

We will also seek paper presenters and dialogue with research committees that are also engaged in this area of inquiry, including RC19, the Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy, and RC31, Research Committee on Migration.

Surveillance Society in Mexico: A Global Approach to Managing Crime?

By Miguel Ángel Vite Pérez
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During the presidency of Felipe Calderón (2007-2012) the move from criminalizing drug trafficking in Mexico to waging a full-out war on it brought about important changes in public safety agencies, such as the generalized use of the army to fight certain armed groups of drug traffickers in territories susceptible to a high degree of social vulnerability --that is, those areas where local governments exhibit weak management and the population has precarious material conditions-- as well as the justification of the professionalization of local police forces through the acquisition of new knowledge and skills to “combat” criminal organizations linked with drug trafficking. In this context, criminalization, as defined from the domain of political power, led to a war that created an exceptional situation in Mexico in the sense that there were violations of human rights through arbitrary arrests and forced disappearances, including the death of innocent actors. As such, this situation was characterized by the weakness of citizen rights as well as the proliferation of a variety of illegal or informal acts that in some instances have enabled the poor, for example, to access land to build housing and also to receive public services. As a result, Mexican society exhibits a complex relationship between the realms of the legal and the illegal that has created a favorable situation for some groups to obtain benefits and advantages. This has led to the idea that the realm of the legal works only for, or is applicable only to, the privileged sectors of society; conversely, it does not work for non-privileged sectors in which individuals lead daily life along a social logic far removed from the established legal order.

When analyzing the various logics that integrate contemporary Mexican society, the concepts of legal order and social conventions that the German sociologist Max Weber observed come in handy. Legal order, according to Weber, corresponds to the written rules that regulate institutional life in society. Social conventions, on the other hand, refer to the unwritten rules that nevertheless serve to organize life among certain groups. Conventions have also been identified with the uses and customs of communities in which legal order has a limited presence. Legal order and social conventions can intersect and work together. In the case of Mexican society, however, given that social practices are characterized by widespread illegality, it has been concluded that social conventions are an obstacle to the universal applicability of written rules. This conclusion is not altogether valid because conventions rely on the legal order and vice versa, which does not lead to illegality understood as a situation of criminality requiring the State’s intervention through punitive actions and the use of physical force. In Mexico’s case, illegality has become an alternative channel to construct and further the wellbeing of non-privileged social groups rather than to grow criminality.

From the government’s perspective, illegality is visualized as an element that generates criminality. That is why the solution is to guarantee that the rule of law is applied by punishing illicit or illegal activities. Social convention in Mexico is based on the existence of various social logics with particular meanings and which, in specific situations, come into play with survival strategies linked to the informal economy. The relationship between what is legal and what is illegal in Mexico thus arises from a process characterized by the impunity and corruption of political elites as well as the inadequate performance of government institutions in protecting citizens from the negative consequences fostered by the absence of social justice.

Social conventions in Mexico, however, do not replace the legal order. Instead, they enable the organization of communities and groups looking to fulfill objectives of social cohesion and collective wellbeing. The relative validity of Mexican legal order has also been associated with the topic of the absence of citizenship. In other words, there is no concept of the citizen as such but rather of communities, clienteles, peoples, or a variety of social groups that use violence as a form of protest.

The Mexican government’s war against drug trafficking organizations has been another channel to legitimize the use of surveillance technology as a means to curtail illegal behaviors among the broader population. It has also been used to expand

control and surveillance over the population at large, gathering and amassing personal information on biological and socioeconomic characteristics. Mexican surveillance society is neither the product of the widespread use of video surveillance nor of the attributes of the concept of surveillance itself. Rather, it has come about from a collective belief whereby public safety is associated with surveillance technology in public squares, streets and boulevards, residential areas, and individual businesses. The Mexican government's criminalization of some social behaviors is a dynamic that should be studied, especially as it relates to punitive actions against groups that have been deemed as enemies of social stability because of benefits that they may derive from their particular activities. The illegal or illicit realm, in my opinion, exists when it is criminalized by the state rather than by the ties it establishes with the legal realm or by the negative consequences it has on social cohesion. Government criminalization cannot be attributed to a sole factor such as the spread of poverty and misery. It stems from a logic aimed at establishing new ways of legitimizing state authority through the punishment of actions qualified as illegal, and in the apparent interest of protecting national security.

The strength and status of the Mexican state is rooted in the significant role it has played historically in the construction of institutions and social organizations. This particular status, however, can be interpreted from a different vantage point: the Mexican government does not control the totality of the territory in its jurisdiction or its population, which it has sought to do, in this new context of globalized crime, through punitive actions. This perspective offers the possibility of a more nuanced analysis of the situation than those that concentrate primarily on the alleged strength or weakness of the Mexican state. It is not customary in Mexico to appeal to the state when it comes to social relations because the government has traditionally focused more on the needs of political elites rather than on those of the population at large, thereby violating citizen rights.

According to the issues discussed above, Mexico's surveillance society is characterized by the following elements:

1. A conflictive relationship between the legal and illegal realms.
2. Criminalization of certain social behaviors.
3. Professionalization of public safety forces and a widespread use of surveillance technology.
4. A process of criminalization that has legitimized the expansion of control and surveillance over broad groups in society.
5. The emergence of a collective belief that correlates illegal activity to a lack of public safety.
6. The identification of certain social conventions with illegality.

Furthermore, the criminalization of international terrorism and drug trafficking has legitimized the use of the armed forces, thereby transforming the conflict into a violent struggle. This has meant the creation of a situation of exception that has disregarded citizen and human rights in the interest of preserving national security. Consequently, the idea that national security is in danger has also justified the use of surveillance technology to identify potential enemies. These enemies have been stripped of their rights and have become individuals without social attributes, that is, without any ties to society. This loss of social attributes, of the rights and protections granted by the state, has been the cause of conflicts that have led to the current situation of violence, especially because vulnerability has become generalized or has affected broader collectivities. This particular relationship between legality and illegality, however, is not limited to Mexico. It is also evident on the international stage, as can be observed, for example, in the case of the war on terrorism that the United States is waging against Middle Eastern networks, in which the human rights of detainees are often violated. International management of criminality is also a response to the need to control events that for some are the consequences of neoliberal globalization, which tend to be interpreted as stemming from the absence of state regulations but which, in reality, came about from new ways of commercializing elements that at a different point in time were part of the social welfare system.

The Mexican government is far from an outlier in the international trend towards expanding control and surveillance of populations through a myriad of technological devices. The objectives of such surveillance are not limited to combatting criminal activity as they also encompass the administration of the population's biological and social life.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Power and Justice in the Contemporary World-Economy

Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, August 9, 2013

<http://powerandjustice.com> |

Register by July 1, 2013 to *attend*



This one-day conference will focus on highlighting sociologists' contributions to contemporary struggles for social justice around the world. Conference streams will focus on topics like:

- Alternatives to capitalist development
- Biofuels and global warming
- Can we have development AND justice?
- Challenges in international development
- Criminal justice and injustice
- Current affairs in major regions of the world
- Development
- Economic and social rights
- Economy and society
- Environmental justice
- Faces of globalization
- Food security
- Human rights
- Indigenous movements
- International law and institutions
- Local struggles for rights and/or justice
- Peace movements
- Policing and social control
- Race, class, and gender in the world-system
- Social movements
- Strengthening civil society
- The international treaty system
- The political economy of the world-system
- The politics of austerity
- The rise of the surveillance state
- The transnational capitalist class
- Transnational corporations
- World-systems and ecosystems

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

Labor and Global Solidarity – The US, China and Beyond

Joseph A. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies

City University of New York

18th Floor, 25 West 43rd Street

New York, NY 10036

Monday, 12 August 2013

The conference is co-sponsored by: the Asia and Asian American Section of ASA; the Labor Studies Section of SSSP; the Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies at CUNY; the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education; the Manhattan College Labor Studies Program; Critical Sociology; SAGE UK, the Labour Movements Research Committee (RC44) of the International Sociological Association; and the China Association of Work and Labor of the Chinese Sociological Association. The one-day mini-conference will bring together scholars and practitioners to address the changing landscapes of work and labor organizing at multiple scales, from the local to the transnational. Facing the global re-organization of production chains, the expansion of precarious work, hostile political climates, and the continued world-wide economic malaise, workers and their allies nonetheless continue to act, from escalating unrest across China, to new models of organizing in NYC, to greater cross-border solidarity, North-South and South-South.

For registration (free) and conference information: <http://bit.ly/ZZZej4>



Original photo courtesy of Rainforest Action Network on flickr

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION Geographies of Labor

35th Annual North American Labor History Conference
October 24-26, 2013
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan

Over the last several centuries, transformations in technology and in economic, social, political, and cultural practices have created new spatial regimes within and across geographic boundaries. Whether negotiating the changes around them or taking advantage of new possibilities to shape alternatives, workers have been central to remapping this emergent environment.

Inspired by the “spatial turn” in the social sciences, this conference will explore the myriad ways in which workers have interacted with a variety of geographic categories. We welcome projects that seek to understand these interactions through a number of lenses, including, but not limited to: empire, globalization, uneven development, mobility, and migration/immigration at the transnational, national and/or local level. We invite proposals from a wide variety of disciplines, especially history, geography, sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, and cultural studies.

For more information and conference details: <http://nalhc.wayne.edu/>

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