



# International Sociological Association

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

## RC09 Newsletter Fall 2009

### Remarks from the RC09 Chairs

### Inside this issue:

Dear Colleagues,

In the previous issue of the RC 09 Newsletter, we announced the RC 09 program for the Gothenburg Congress of July 2010 by giving some short remarks on the then ongoing crisis. Today, we hear more and more voices speak of the period *after* the crisis and we have some initial findings on its (ongoing) consequences. For instance, according to research on ten poor communities in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Jamaica and Zambia, published by the *Institute of Development Studies* ([www.ids.ac.uk](http://www.ids.ac.uk)), poor people have been harshly affected by the crisis: many migrant export sector workers were forced to return home when their contracts were not reviewed; others had their working hours reduced or were dismissed. Food prices have continued to rise as a result of high fertilizer prices. Microfinance NGOs reported that local lending was down and bad loans were up. This research also found that people in the studied communities now eat less frequently and less diverse; children are withdrawn from schools and growing numbers of young girls are selling sex. Middle-classes have become less helpful to poorer groups whereas public safety nets disbursed only small amounts. Social impacts on individuals and households showed rising stress levels (suicide and violence).

While initial available research on the consequences of the global financial crisis on people's lives and wellbeing paints a dark picture for the world's poorest populations, the policy developments at the global level may be more encouraging. Notable is the change of the International Monetary Fund's governance structure with a larger role provided to China, India, and Brazil. Awarding the 2009 Nobel Prize

for Peace to US President Obama is also an encouragement for a changed international responsibility of the USA in our global world. China's international role is becoming more and more important for poor countries that have been affected by the withdrawal of OECD countries preoccupied with their own internal problems. For instance, there has been significant investment in Africa by Chinese state enterprises, particularly in the energy sector.

These are but a few insights on the consequences of the crisis that should stimulate further discussion about the influences of the current development paradigm and generate important contributions to the literature on social transformations and the sociology of development. It is thus important that we continue this debate at an international event such as the ISA World Congress in Gothenburg in 2010. We strongly encourage you to submit your paper proposals by December 15 to one of the numerous RC09 sessions, by emailing your abstract and contact information to session organizers. Moreover, don't forget to renew your ISA and RC 09 membership together with your registration to the Gothenburg Congress at <https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>.

We hope that we will meet many of you in Gothenburg!

With very best wishes for the rest of the year,

Nina Bandelj and Ulrike Schuerkens  
Co-chairs RC 09 "Social Transformations and Sociology of Development"

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

Submission deadline:  
December 15, 2009

See inside for information on  
RC09's call for papers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The deadline for the submission of paper abstracts to session organizers for all RC09 sessions is **December 15, 2009**. You can expect to hear a decision from the session organizer in the weeks following this deadline.

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

### Sessions

#### Session 1: Crisis and social transformations

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

This session would like to reunite case studies on the topic of crisis and its recent escalation during the financial crisis of the last months. The aim of the session is to contribute to a widening of the notion of crisis and to possible openings that a theory of social transformations can provide. Scholars are asked to look for possibilities how research on social transformations and the sociology of development can suggest outcomes and possible reactions in a time of crisis. In particular, this session looks for case studies that develop the theoretical thinking and suggest empirical research on the consequences of the financial crisis in different countries of the North and the South. As the financial crisis has shown, the economic system seems to have attained a critical moment where transitions announcing structural changes of the neo-liberal order appear. Authors should accept the challenge that this new situation presents to us as sociologists and should suggest case studies that may tackle the following topics: Broad segments of populations will have to live new and unexpected outcomes of state interventions that the crisis of the financial sector has asked for. The neo-liberal economy has permitted middle classes and poorer groups to maintain standards of living by getting bank credits in such a volume that the actual value of these credits was no longer guaranteed by banks, which was one of the main reasons for the financial crisis. How do different social groups react to this crisis and what are the influ-

ences on the labour markets? Are there country differences, such as countries where the lending ratio was lower or higher than in other countries? Does this mean different outcomes depending on local situations? What is the role of the global interconnectedness in given local settings? The overall assumption of the session is that transformation theory can provide rational explications on the basis of observation, analysis, and interpretation and can thus display possible sociological alternatives to the critical-historical analysis of the present.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The impacts of climate change pose new risks and vulnerabilities for cities and creating a new dimension to the challenges of urban sustainability. While sociologists have traditionally analyzed



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Call to Form an Informal Research Network on the Significance of Slums, Favelas, and Shanty-Towns

This is a call to form an informal research network to study the world historical significance of slums, favelas, and shanty-towns. The ultimate goal of the group would be to produce publishable works which can be submitted as an edited volume. The project (which I informally refer to as 'Slum Studies') seeks to take the slum or favela seriously as a world historical (developmental) form. This is an analysis that can have both quantitative as well as qualitative elements. There are tremendous amounts of data currently available from organizations like UN-HABITAT, and Global Urban Observatory (to name only two) that measure the growth of slums and favelas as well as the global movement of populations from traditional rural areas to cities in the developing and developed world. I believe the areas that are deserving of more extensive study include basic questions involving the historical persistence of slums and favelas, and what this might say about the way inequality functions in the Capitalist World Economy. What are the social, political, and economic forces that make slums and favelas possible given the potential for economic prosperity argued to be associated with globalization? Are slums and favelas inevitable outcomes given the still rather limited nature of capital flows in the global economy? I also believe that the intra-national consequences related to the continued growth in slums and favelas in developing regions should be explored. Just as important as how slum-dwellers live is the issue of how they are treated by municipal and national governments. Identity issues (related to race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality) are also very important components of this project. Issues of social and political exclusion can go hand-in-hand with spiraling criminal activity and policed violence in these peripheralized areas. I welcome any and all suggestions. Interested parties can contact me via email at:

Delario Lindsey, Ph.D.

RC09 Member

Visiting Professor of African, African-American and Caribbean Studies

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Do you have information to share with RC09 members?

Contact the RC09 Secretary at:  
[wroberts@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:wroberts@coloradocollege.edu)

## Calls for Papers

The **Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics (JDAE)** is a multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal that will be published monthly by Academic Journals (<http://www.academicjournals.org/JDAE>). JDAE is dedicated to increasing the depth of the subject across disciplines with the ultimate aim of expanding knowledge.

### Call for Papers

JDAE will cover all areas of the subject. The journal welcomes the submission of manuscripts that meet the general criteria of significance and scientific excellence, and will publish: Original articles in basic and applied research; Case studies; Critical reviews, surveys, opinions, commentaries and essays.

We invite you to submit your manuscript(s) to [JDAE@acadjourn.org](mailto:JDAE@acadjourn.org). Our objective is to inform authors of the decision on their manuscript(s) within four weeks of submission. Following acceptance, a paper will normally be published in the next issue. Instruction for authors and other details are available on our website; <http://www.academicjournals.org/JDAE/Instruction.htm>

### Editorial Board members

JDAE is seeking for qualified reviewers as members of the review board team. JDAE serves as a great resource for researchers and students across the globe. We ask you to support this initiative by joining our reviewer's team. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, kindly send us your resume to [JDAE@acadjourn.org](mailto:JDAE@acadjourn.org)

### JDAE is an Open Access Journal

One key request of researchers across the world is unrestricted access to research publications. Open access gives a worldwide audience larger than that of any subscription-based journal and thus increases the visibility and impact of published works. It also enhances indexing, retrieval power and eliminates the need for permissions to reproduce and distribute content. JDAE is fully committed to the Open Access Initiative and will provide free access to all articles as soon as they are published.

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The **Journal of Global Responsibility**, to be launched in 2010, is currently seeking paper submissions. The journal, edited by Dr Grant Jones, Macquarie University, Australia, publishes scholarly articles that build the kind of understanding that will lead organisations towards the adoption of a longer term focus and a more inclusive set of responsibilities. The purpose of the journal is to catalyse thought from a wide range of academic disciplines and in doing so provide intellectual leadership both within the academic world and across all organisations seeking to clarify and engage with sustainability agenda.

The journal wants to help organisations rethink themselves and to encourage them to evaluate their own progress in terms of the progress of the communities in which they operate and thus lead the entrepreneurial and creative capacity of capitalism to become a force for building common good.

The *Journal of Global Responsibility* (JGR) invites the submission of scholarly, research based and theoretical articles. Articles may be reviews, empirically based arguments, theoretical explorations and case studies that present innovation and are accompanied by a high degree of analysis. The coverage of the journal includes, but is not limited to: Ethics; New mental models; Governance; Strategy; Public policy; Corporate social responsibility; Human rights; Workplace spirituality; Employee/community engagement; Transparency; Resource management; Environmental impact; Organisational development; Change; Human resource management and development; Social entrepreneurship; Innovation and creativity; Social marketing; Action learning; Management education; Cross cultural management; Organisational change; Leadership theory and leadership development.

Each paper is reviewed by the Editor and, if judged suitable for this publication, is then sent to two referees for double blind peer review. We can guarantee successfully reviewed papers publication in a forthcoming issue.

Submissions to the *Journal of Global Responsibility* should be sent by e-mail to the Editor: Dr Grant Jones: [Grant.Jones@mgs.edu.au](mailto:Grant.Jones@mgs.edu.au)

More information and author guidelines can be found at: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/jgr.htm>

Note: RC09 has no formal relationship to these journals. We are providing this information as a courtesy to our members.

## RC09 Member Publications and Research Projects

**S.A. Hamed Hosseini.** (2009) *Alternative Globalizations: An Integrative Approach to Studying Dissident Knowledge in the Global Justice Movement.* Routledge. See information about the book at: <http://www.routledge.com/books/Alternative-Globalizations-ISBN9780415494762>

**Markus S. Schulz.** (2009) "Structured Modes of Interplay and the Modeling of Digital Futures," in *The ISA Handbook of Contemporary Sociology*, edited by Ann Denis and Devorah Kalekin-Fishman. London: Sage, pp. 291-304.

**Ulrike Schuerkens.** (2009) "Conflict, Competition, Co-operation in the Sociology of Development and Social Transformations," in *The ISA Handbook of Contemporary Sociology*, edited by Ann Denis and Devorah Kalekin-Fishman. London: Sage, pp. 109-123.

**Melsome Nelson-Richards,** State University of New York "Globalization: The Latest Mode of Production in the World System." Paper presented at the Second Global Studies Conference at Zayed University in May/June of 2009, UAE.

This paper examines the main "Modes of Production" in the world system, from pre-capitalist, to capitalist and now to globalization. Comprehensive analyses have been given to globalization which has over the past twenty years or so become an important issue in the discipline of sociology and other social sciences, but it has never been looked upon as a mode of production. In order to do this, one must examine the other modes of production in the world system. The paper concludes that this new mode of production has not proved any better than its predecessor, the capitalist mode of production; but instead has left the poor countries poorer and the rich, richer. Some countries in Asia that have enjoyed thirty years of stable governance and that have implemented solid socio-economic local policies on their own have

fared much better than Africa, which has been embroiled in civil strife for about the same period under consideration.

UNICEF has also asked **Dr. Melsome Nelson-Richards** to assess the organization's Child Friendly School- CFS Programme. A number of school models intended to improve the quality of education have been postulated over the years. For the past ten years, UNICEF has been working on a new school model and it finally settled on the CFS. The CFS model seems to be the one most suited to generate a child-centered learning atmosphere. The CFS is thought of as being the most comprehensive to date and it is being introduced globally. The model ensures that school children worldwide are safe in their school environment. It also provides a friendly atmosphere for them, and above all it incorporates democratic participation, inclusiveness and gender parity and sensitivity.

Nelson-Richards has so far assessed the CFS in The Gambia, Uganda, The United Kingdom, Cambodia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Rwanda, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

**Emma Porio,** Ateneo de Manila University,  
Philippines

*Publications:*

Policy Driven Knowledge Production, Audit Culture, and Power: Transforming Sociological Practices in the Philippines in *ISA-e* bulletin, July 2009.

"Shifting Spaces of Power in Metro Manila" in *City: Analysis of Urban Trends, Culture, Theory, Policy, Action* 13(1):110-119, (London), March 2009.

"Sociology, Society and the State: Institutionalizing Sociological Practice in the Philippines," in *The ISA Handbook of Diverse Sociological Traditions*, edited by Sujata Patel. London: Sage Publications, October 2009.

*Research Projects:*

Urbanization, Poverty, and Development in the Philippines, part of a five country demonstration study supported International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED, London) and the United Nations for Fund Population Assistance. Research paper presented in a meeting at IIED,





London, Sept. 9-10, 2009.

Access to Justice for the Urban Poor in the Philippines, supported by the Asia Foundation/Asian Development Bank. Research paper presented in a regional meeting on Access to Justice for the Urban Poor in Asia, Asian Development Bank (Manila) April 23-25, 2009.

Resilience and Vulnerability to Flood and Climate Change Related Risks Among Riverine Communities in Metro Manila, supported by the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. Research paper presented in a meeting on Asian Cities and Climate Change, Bangkok, Thailand, February 25-28, 2009.

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### John Sudarsky

Acontabilidad y Representación: La evolución de la Relación entre Estado y Sociedad según la Medición del Capital Social de Colombia, 1997-2005.

Presentado al Congreso de Colombianistas, Universidad de Virginia, Agosto, 2009

<http://www.confianzaelectoral.com/pg/file/jorgebogota/read/14359/acontabilidad-y-representacion-por-john-sudarsky>, accessed on October 18, 2009.

### Introducción

Los temas consuetudinarios en el estudio de la sociedad colombiana (narcotráfico, guerra, paz, guerrilla, paramilitares) y su continuo debate dificultan la apreciación de otros procesos de cambio en ella, y la evolución de algunas de sus premisas básicas contenidas en la tradición hispano-católica. En este breve ensayo y basado en algunos resultados de la medición del Capital Social en Colombia, 1997-2005 (Sudarsky, 2007) se intentará trazar el impacto y la evolución de la relación entre electores y elegidos y las alternativas que se pueden avizorar sobre cómo hacerlas más transparentes y responsables. Primero estudiaremos la tradición Jacobino Hispano Católica (JHC) y cómo aparece Colombia en la Encuesta Mundial de Valores (EMV); luego se contrastarán el clientelismo con la relación Principal-Agente (P-A) y el impacto de diferentes sistemas electorales sobre esta última. Además se explorarán cómo los sistemas de Representación Proporcional (RP) corresponden a la tradición hispano católica y ha eliminado de facto el debate sobre la relación P-A. En los pocos casos donde en Latino América se han instaurado sistemas electorales donde existen distritos uninominales o de baja magnitud, se han encontrado otros mecanismos para quebrar la relación P-A. En este contexto se plantean la conjunción de los mecanismos de participación como formas de disminuir la pérdida de agencia y

los distritos uninominales para ligar los procesos participativos con el régimen político, procesos que se contrastan en los casos de cuatro ciudades colombianas. En base a los resultados de la medición antes mencionada, se evalúan las políticas del gobierno de Álvaro Uribe, especialmente desde el desarrollo de la sociedad civil y la democracia participativa. A partir de allí se discuten elementos necesarios para reparar la relación entre Estado y Sociedad haciendo seguimiento a la agenda abierta por un anterior ensayo del autor sobre el tema (Sudarsky, 1992).

Would you like to share  
your news with other  
RC09 members?

Contact Wade Roberts at  
[wroberts@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:wroberts@coloradocollege.edu).

## New Publications in the Field

Alim, H. Samy et al. (eds) (2009) *Global linguistic flows: hip-hop, cultures, youth identities, and the politics of language*. New York and London: Routledge.

*Alternatives économiques* (2008) *Les grandes dates de la théorie économique: du néolithique à la crise financière, de la colonisation à la mondialisation, de Watt au Web, de Crésus à l'euro, de la révolution industrielle au développement durable*. N° 36, 168 p.

Babadzan, Alain (2009) *Le spectacle de la culture: globalisation et traditionalismes en Océanie*. Paris: L'Harmattan.

Benito, Gabriel R. G. and Rajneesh Narula (2007) *Multinationals on the periphery*. Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Berger, Suzanne (2007) *Made in monde: les nouvelles frontières de l'économie mondiale*. Paris: Éd. du Seuil.

Carpenter, Claude (2008) *L'école dans un monde en crise : entre globalisation et héritages*. Paris, Torino, Budapest: L'Harmattan.

*Économie et prévision* (2008) "Économie du développement et de la transition". (5, n° 186).

Harribey, Jean-Marie and Dominique Pilhon (eds) (2009) *Sortir de la crise globale: vers un monde écologique et solidaire*. Paris: La Découverte.

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Continued...

## New Publications in the Field Continued...

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to be of interest to RC09 members?

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## Book Reviews

**Domingues, José Mauricio. *Latin America and Contemporary Modernity. A Sociological Interpretation.* London and New York: Routledge. 2008**

**Ximena Guzmán, EHESS**

This review presents a general idea of the principal concerns and interpretations that José Mauricio Domingues develops in his book. The author offers a contemporary perspective on the theory of modernity in Latin America, focusing on the development in the subcontinent in a critical and analytical way that takes account of social impacts, social movements, and their transformations for the last 30 years. This period is considered the third phase of modernity. He uses the same theoretical and critical lines as in his previous publications, as he continues to underline the collective importance of historical studies made on the subcontinent.

Making a sociological analysis with a global perspective, Domingues tries to understand particular situations of development in each Latin American country. This perspective allows the author to theorize on the conditions of the subcontinent's introduction in the global context. However, he also uses localism in order to describe the development of economic and social life. For the author, social life is characterized by a continuous process of movement and change.

In the three chapters of the book, he develops theoretical and historical approaches to laws, rights, and justice. At the beginning, he analyses development and its continuation in globalization processes; looking for alternatives and suggesting some perspectives are the main topics of the second part. In the last part of the book, the author writes about the articulation of the concepts of collective subjectivity, social movements, and social change.

In chapter one, Domingues describes the historical development of the first two phases of modernity in the subcontinent. He compares the different uses of notions such as corporatism and clientelism in each country. In fact, he introduces the importance of the concepts of citizenship, identity, and freedom for the third phase of modernity that he describes.

The transformations of the individual and collective notions of the labor system, where modernization was related to the growth of cities, an increase of migrations, and a changed conception of subjectivities are the main ideas of chapter two.

In the last chapter, "Identities and domination, solidarity and project," Domingues reviews the principal social movements. He tries to understand the construction of new identities, such as collective demands of indigenous peoples that have come to the forefront of the debate in cultural, legal, and social terms. Territorial claims, the gender movement, and new cultural manifestations of young people in the

spheres of music, art, dance, are the new challenges of social life.

For the author, it is important to show that new forms appear that were founded to cope with changes in social conditions. The author underlines the theory of dependency. His aim is to construct a theoretical interpretation that places Latin America within modernity where it undergoes its specific and often path-dependent process of modernization. By positioning himself against the euro-centrist vision or "the Western vision," he distances himself from some currents of the principal Latin American theorists proposing another viewpoint.

The author combines concepts and empirical information in a critical perspective, Domingues analyses the theme of collective subjectivity, especially in connection with the work of Parsons, Marx, Giddens, and Habermas. In fact, there are concepts of Touraine, Anibal Quijano, Dussel, Wallerstein and others in his approach in order to balance Western social theories. The author argues that the connection between Latin America, the West, and modernity is inescapable.

From global to local, the neo-liberal politics were applied in different ways in each country of the subcontinent that were analyzed by Domingues in order to understand the particularities of the third phase of modernity. The author explains the importance of the theory of regulation and suggests that the mode of development in Latin America seems to be stuck in its pattern of low consumption and low technological development, the dependency on the decisions of transnational firms, financial markets, and governments of core countries.

In a general conclusion, the author underlines different subcontinental problems such as technological changes, the development of labor markets, and the growing of the informal sector of the economy. Moreover, Latin American countries, either in the periphery or in the semi-periphery of the global modernity, develop according to their own levels of internal differentiation and industrialization. Nevertheless, the author affirms that there are emancipating elements of modernity such as freedom, solidarity, and new forms of collective responsibilities opposed to domination, inequality, and self-interested conceptions of responsibility.

For José Mauricio Domingues, the notions of law, rights, and justice are plural elements that express the general imaginary of modernity in specific ways in contemporary Latin America, linking up with institutional forms. It is obvious that he considers the transformations of Latin America according to institutional ways. However, he doesn't forget individual agency.

Finally, Domingues doesn't find easy solutions. He explains that "there is no real alternative thinking in Latin America that could lead to a modernizing offensive capable of tackling

## Book Reviews Cont...

the present unfolding of the third phase of modernity in the economic sphere in a more interesting way for the people of the region." Nevertheless, in this historic process, the pluralism of social life has been shot through Latin American societies as a result of evolutionary tendencies that multiply different sorts of activities in different dimensions. Deep processes of dis-embedding, connected to capitalism, citizenship, and globalization, and a subsequent process of re-embedding are imposed, that have entailed new and multiples identities.

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**Bargh, Maria (ed.) (2007) *Resistance: An Indigenous Response to Neoliberalism*. Wellington, Aotearoa, New Zealand: Huia Publishers.**

**Vinicius Mesquita Rosenthal, EHESS**

The reviewed book reunites various articles of Maori authors. The phenomenon of globalization, introduced by the neo-liberal economy in the last 30 years, is presented from a Maori perspective. The book is written for those who resist neo-liberalism as being a new form of colonialism. Bargh's book is exemplary insofar as she is opposed to the neo-liberal agenda. In fact, inhabitants and specialists of the region, but also people interested in development processes, are the intended audience of the book.

Maori struggles and resistance to neo-liberal policies are studied throughout the volume. An alternative form of governing Maori life and resources can be found, according to the authors, in the bureaucratic, cultural, linguistic, and psychological conceptions of the group - as a holistic vision that is juxtaposed to a market-oriented one. Today, communication and transport networks allow indigenous peoples' associations to gather in order to resist national and transnational authorities. In this sense, globalization has opened up new forms of indigenous resistance.

Neo-liberalism is seen as an extension of colonialism because it functions against natives' interests. The free market, the unregulated movement of capital, and the reduced role of the state are imposed on regions ruled by non neo-liberal principles. While the justification of neo-liberalism is based on market efficiency and the fact that economic growth is considered good for human well-being, a strange "colonial" continuation is found in the notion that indigenous people must either be eradicated or must change their customs in order to participate in the benefits of a market-oriented economy. The sole difference between both approaches is apparently the discard of the religious aspect, as the second approach is considered scientific, neutral, and technologically based. According to the authors, indigenous people are put in strong opposition to the implementation of the neo-liberal agenda, as they are "non-rational," "non-logical," "non-

neutral," and "non-scientific".

After having read the book, the reader wants to know more about the internal conflicts of Maori people, given that within many of these groups (who may resist or not), conflicts exist over how best to achieve common goals. These divides are central for an understanding of the current situation of the Maori. The same critical remark can be made on the political level: The authors do not make clear whether there are groups sympathetic to Maori demands. If these networks were available, the social links between Maori and non-Maori groups would display the intricate nature of this power relation.

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**Hernandez, Valeria, P pita Ould-Ahmed, Jean Papail, and Pascale Ph linas (eds) (2007) *L'action collective   l' preuve de la globalisation*. Paris : L'Harmattan.**

**Mariana Anaya, EHESS**

The purpose of this review is to present a brief overview of the topic of the book, a topic that is displayed in twelve chapters tackling various social problems in different countries throughout the world. The authors share an economic approach and its new challenges, stretching from the less protected sectors, such as the agriculturists, to the Nation-State that must adapt to the new worldwide norms of economy. The main concern of the investigators involved in this book is to analyze social actions from the perspective of the social sciences. This review has been divided into three parts, reflecting the characteristics of the book.

According to the editors, the current stage of the long construction process of the capitalist economy envisages the final subordination of social otherness (Hernandez 2007: 11). With the advance of merchandising, the phenomenon of individualization has been accelerated during the last thirty years. The production of globalities, that join people and goods today, includes a permanent mobility, a versatile cognitive and geographical movement of imaginaries and practices (Hernandez 2007: 13). We are thus confronted with a new way of constructing and controlling identities, influenced by temporary and spatial factors, from individuals over groups to supra-groups.

In the book, three chapters discuss various perspectives and historic moments of Argentina. The first one focuses on the role of the nation-state in globalization. Maristella Svampa describes a citizenship that tends towards fragmentation and that gives place to new figures of citizens according to the patrimonial model, the model of the consuming citizen, and the participative model, underlying in each case the central role of the nation-state in this development process.

The second chapter, from Carla Gras and Valeria Hernandez, explains transformations of the agricultural sector since the process of political and economic liberalization engaged



in the 1990s, that privileged free international business and, most often, hurt the farmers. As a consequence, these transformations brought radical changes to the relationship of people and the soil: in the best of all cases, by producing economic growth and technological improvements, but in the worst, by reducing productivity and the profits of the farmers.

The third chapter, by Alejandro Grisom and Sebastián Pereyra, exposes the importance of Argentine NGOs on the international level. The authors reflect on the relevance of the national scale by studying social movements, particularly those that determine the global agenda. While being focused on Argentine subordinate groups, the *Association for Tax Transactions and Citizens Assistance (ATTAC)* and *Power Citizen* (an NGO devoted to the fight against corruption that represents *International Transparency* locally), they analyze the cultural and political importance of the reference to “the nation” in the collective actions that these two organizations have led.

Then, the book presents two case studies that focus on Uzbekistan. In both of them, we find a historical account of the characteristics that citizens have faced and why they live in an era of globalization, without being largely transformed by this phenomenon, at least not as radically as in most countries of the world.

Monique Selim writes on the contradictions of the educational system of Uzbekistan, where the government gives great importance to the social sciences (by conferring to researchers the mission to reinforce Uzbek identity, while limiting their research and delaying their investigations) but neglects the role of the natural sciences. Laurent Bazin, in another case, analyzes the current activation of nationalism as a political tool of legitimization after the Soviet period. The author shows that at the time when the Uzbek State identity emerged, the national ideology was reinforced by the State and was shaped by a withdrawal from the field of labor and an under-evaluation of the family sphere.

In the third section of the book, we find actors and international agencies whose stories and actions have changed the world. For example, Elisabeth Jelin underlines transformations in the political system undertaken by many actors and groups including governmental organizations, networks of activists, transnational coalitions, and social movements. This diversity makes her explore several questions: Does a necessary progression of networks to movements exist? Are there any links between local mobilizations and transnational mobilizations?

In the last part of the book, we find the case of France with its antiracist organization (*S.O.S-Racisme*) and the way it has changed. Finally, the chapter on India displays the conjugation of old and new traditions within the framework of globalization that formed an Indian middle-class characterized by contradictions and adaptations. In fact, one can find a conjunction between the interests of Indian elites of the higher castes and the former colonial administration. There is also a conjunction between the old idea of a societal center and the imported affirmation of social modernity, as well as a conjunction between the prospects of the Indian puritan reform and the Victorian values

of the English middle-class men. The author focuses on the Hindu middle-class that is strongly influenced by the English middle-class and its social models.

To conclude, I consider that the main contribution of this book resides in its effort to show different scales of social action - local, national, and transnational - as well as new forms of social participation, social movements, and forms of power exercise, all inserted in the problematic link of global and local relations.

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