



### Remarks from the RC 09 Chair

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Dear colleagues,

Our Research Committee continues to have an important role in the current process of crises that triggers protests in countries of the global South and the North as governments have decided to cut expenses in social services and infrastructure. Jobs have become rarer, and safety nets for the most vulnerable are lacking. The consequences of the financial crises have got obvious in more and more countries, even if some regions such as South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa escaped the worst effects of the crisis. Yet Africa South of the Sahara, Central Asia, and Europe have been hard hit.

In order to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the world's poor, case studies are needed that sociologists working on social transformations and in development sociology can undertake. Even if the immediate consequences of the crisis have been less devastating than presumed, crises tend to have severe impacts on health, education, and employment. Food consumption sinks, school enrolment rates of girls and health expenses fall. Many vulnerable groups have difficulties to cope with these risks. Innovative capabilities are distributed in an unequal manner over the globe so that the outcomes of the crises are different according to socio-cultural origins.

As sociologists we can contribute to analyze these difficult situations in our respective regions. In Gothenburg, several sessions of RC 09 tackled these topics and book publications will inform the wider public on the results. During the Midterm Conference of the International Sociological Association in 2012, we

will probably continue to analyze the outcomes of the crises. In early 2011, the RC 09 board will come back to you with a Call for papers for different RC 09 sessions during this event.

As the chair of RC 09, I wish all of you a pleasant end of the year 2010.

Best regards,

Ulrike Schuerkens

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Gothenburg, Sweden

## Report on RC09 Sessions

### XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, 11-17 July, 2010, Gothenburg

**The Session Labor Markets on the Move: Out-migration from the Caucasus to the Russian Federation chaired by Nicolai Genov** was intended for presentations and discussions of results of the international research project on the same topic. The project is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and has been implemented between 2008 and 2010 by research teams from Armenia, Georgia, Moscow, and Berlin (Germany). All partners participated in the Session with the exception of the Georgian one. Empirical data and theoretical interpretations were presented and became the subject of lively debates. The conclusion was that after two decades of uncertainties the flow of migrant labor from Armenia and Georgia to Moscow is getting increasingly regulated in terms of economic efficiency and respect to human rights. However, there are still unresolved issues particularly concerning the labour migration from Georgia to Moscow and the taming of xenophobic attitudes in the Russian Federation.

**The Session Labor Migration, Governance and Global Development chaired by Habibul Haque Khondker** tackled the topic of migration of overseas contract workers that has been an integral feature of globalization of labor 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 favor the unregulated movement of people. Many of the governments in the labor-sending countries are also either indifferent or lack capacity to deal with this situation that not only contributes to the victimization of the workers and 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. Thus the migrant workers get little opportunity for professional development. The papers in this session examined several cases of migrant workers, the social and institutional nexuses that either facilitate or hinder their movement, and policies aimed at the protection of their rights. The papers also explored the consequences of the temporary labor migration and examined ways of improving the conditions for the improvement of the migrant workers.

The papers in the session dealt with the broad issues of governance of labor migration, migration policies, and rights of the migrant workers. The issue of vulnerability of the migrant workers (as in the case of Spain) and the potential of skilled health workers (as in Japan) linked the issues of migration to those of development. A lively discussion followed the session.

**The Session Internal Migration in China, chaired by Kuang-Chi Chang** included five papers that explored a variety of sociological issues regarding internal migrants in China, including social networks and neighborhood effects, patterns and factors relating to health, child development and well-being, crime and victimization, as well as job market in cities. Presenters coming from China, Hong Kong, and the United States addressed these issues that are central to urban development and social inequality by analyzing the differences between migrants and non-migrants, and among migrants migrants of different origins and different cities. The paper presentations sparked a lively discussion between the panelists and the audience about the history, the current conditions, and the relevant policies regarding to China's rural-to-urban migrants. The session concluded successfully with scholarly exchange of ideas for future research.

**The Session on Social Inequalities in Post-socialist Countries, chaired by Nina Bandelj**, featured seven presentations, which discussed different social issues in contemporary Central and East European societies and Russia. Ieva Karolina presented a paper co-authored with Ilze Koroleva, Ritma Rungule, Sigita Snikere and Aleksandrs Alekandrovs on social exclusion in Latvia. Svitlana Babenko's presentation was on social inequality in Ukraine, comparing Ukraine with other East European countries. Elena Danilova's paper used surveys of respondents in St. Petersburg and Shanghai to discuss their perceptions of winners and losers of economic reforms in Russia and China, respectively. Roxana Toader discussed Eurobarometer data on scientific literacy in European societies, with a special focus on East European countries.

Inta Mierina presented a paper co-authored with Alja Zobena on political socialization in Latvia, emphasizing a sense of political helplessness. Aliye Sergiyenko discussed the social position of rural inhabitants in Russia. Liga Rasnaca focused on the socio-economic challenges facing the post-communist countryside as well, but more specifically on the case of Latvia.

**The Session on Socio-economic Transformations in Post-socialist Societies, chaired by Nina Bandelj**, featured four papers that dealt with the intersection of social and economic issues in contemporary Central and Eastern Europe. Maxim Kokushkin presented a portion of his larger project on the economic policies in socialist and post-socialist Bulgaria, noting interesting parallels between the 1980s and the 2000s. Herwig Reiter discussed the notion of citizenship uncertainty based on his study of youth, work, and unemployment in post-Soviet Lithuania. Carolyn Smith Keller presented a paper on gender differences in meritocratic allocation in Poland in the first couple of decades after the fall of socialism. Nina Bandelj presented a preliminary analysis on the consequences of the current economic crisis on countries in Central and Eastern Europe and to what extent the impact may be connected to the extent of liberalization and privatization embraced after 1989.

**The Sessions on Civil Society Organizations and Development, chaired by Wade Roberts**, featured a total of twelve papers and an additional two distributed papers. In the first of the two sessions, Fergal Rhatigan presented on Irish development workers' understanding of development. Anthony Spires examined the ways in which foreign-funded training programs are contributing to the "professionalization" of China's emerging civil society. Neema Noori presented on the role of civil society organizations in local government reform in Uzbekistan. Xiaoyi Sun presented on the transformation of residents' committees in China during the 1980s. Manoj Kumar Teotia discussed water and forest management through voluntaristic development practices in the Himalayas. Oya Acikalin presented on the contradictory paths for civil society organizations in Botswana. Johanna Stenersen distributed a paper on contested practices of civic participation. In the second session, Jennifer Hsu presented on migrant civil society organizations and the Chinese state. Freek Cronje examined the developmental role of civil society in the extractive industry in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Michelle Williams presented on the role of cooperatives in the social economy. Pierre-Olivier Sire examined the role of civil society in corporate social responsibility regimes. Artur Bogner and Dieter Neubert presented on the role of state and civil society actors in conflict management and post-violence development. Ana Maria Zuluaga examined Viota as a case of a rural community's experience of local development. Finally, Tim Scrase distributed a paper on neoliberalism, civil society organizations, and the reconfiguration of empowerment, looking at the challenges for development volunteers in Asia.

**TG 02 "Comparative and Historical Sociology" organized together with RC 09 "Social Transformations and Sociology of development" and RC 07 "Future Studies" a joint session with the topic "Futures after the Crisis: Theoretical, Historical and Comparative Perspective". Markus Schulz chaired the session and Willfried Spohn was the discussant.** The first paper from Ulrike Schuerkens was entitled: "Crisis and Transformations: A Theoretical Overview" and gave an overview of the topic in theoretical terms so that the following papers could be put in a more general framework. The paper of Ed Webster that followed, compared worker responses to the economic crisis in Germany and South Africa and argued that the relation of capital and labor in both countries is very different with weak labor unions in SA and stronger ones in Germany. The third paper from E. Zaccai gave an overview of the importance of environmental factors in the crisis. The last paper of P. Flaschel and S. Luchtenberg discussed the "flexisecurity concept" in Western capitalist societies. Despite the different topics of the papers, the discussant could find some common aspects explaining crises situations so that the following discussion with the audience of some 25 scholars was really interesting and stimulating. The goal of this session was to present some papers that could afterwards be included in an edited book that Ulrike Schuerkens is preparing on the topic of the session.

**TG 02 organized another joint session with RC 09** “Social Transformations and Sociology of Development” with the title **Global Economic crisis, varieties of capitalism, social inequality – Theoretical, historical and comparative perspectives chaired by Ulrike Schuerkens and Willfried Spohn**. The session was interesting because of five good papers that had however few common points so that W. Spohn suggested at the end of the session that the session abstracts of future joint sessions should be more precise in order to permit a clear outline of presentations around a common topic. The audience was composed of some 20 scholars. The paper that Ulrike Schuerkens presented on “Crisis and Remittances” will be included in an updated version in the edited book she is preparing.

**Both Sessions on Social Transformations and the Crisis, chaired by Ulrike Schuerkens**, reunited interesting presentations from a large variety of countries on the socio-economic outcomes of the crisis. Professor M. Meder presented a paper on an empirical research project in Turkey. Dr. Montserrat Simó Solsona presented a paper on the housing crisis in Spain. There were further papers on the outcomes of the crisis in India, Japan, Korea, and Russia. We had an interested public of about 20 researchers and the discussion after the presentations was very lively and instructive as some of these papers reflected current concerns on the crisis and have been revised for an edited publication by Ulrike Schuerkens.

## Report on RC09 Business Meeting

Prepared by Wade Roberts and Nina Bandelj

The 2010 RC09 business meeting took place at the International Sociological Association Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, on July 13, 2010. Agenda items included a report on recent RC09 activities, finances, membership, future activities, including RC09 elections. The meeting was chaired by Nina Bandelj, and attended by some 25 people.

The first agenda item was a discussion of RC09 activities in the past couple of years. Ulrike Schuerkens reported about the 2008 conference sessions at the First Sociology Forum in Barcelona and the publication of an edited book based on an RC09 session, *Globalization and Transformations of Social Inequality* (Routledge 2010).

Wade Roberts then reported on RC09 Newsletter activities, finances and membership. RC09 continues to publish two newsletters per year, distributed via email to the membership, and later posted on the RC09 website. Wade reiterated the call for ideas and suggestions to be included in the newsletter. It was suggested that the newsletters include notices of related conferences and reports on conferences. As concerns finances, Wade noted the recent expenses for the RC09 reception at the Gothenburg Congress, and a grant received for an RC09 publication. RC09 fees have gone up recently to \$35 for four years for category A countries, and \$20 for others. But these fees are still relatively low compared to other research committees. As concerns membership, at the time of the ISA Congress, RC09 had 152 members representing 55 different countries, as follows:

- Category A – 22 countries, 82 members; largest number from the US (29)
- Category B – 15 countries; 32 members; largest number from Russia (6)
- Category C – 17 countries; 38 members; largest number from India (12) and Nigeria (7)

It was noted that not too many RC09 members from category B and C countries are attending the ISA conference,

most likely due to expenses associated with participation. This raised a discussion of how ISA chooses conference sites and that RC09 should raise this issue with ISA. It is clear that the location of conferences determines participation, especially for Category B and C participants, given the cost of hotels and flights. RCs are allocated modest amounts to give out as travel grants. Dieter Neubert suggested that participants look for grants from hosting country, as is done with the African Studies Conference. Nina Bandelj suggested that RCs could take a role in identifying and cultivating funding sources for Category B/C members and pushing the ISA to locate conferences more strategically in light of financial concerns. Among other issues to bring to ISA attention was the issue of the website for registration and abstract submission, which was judged to be confusing, so the ISA should simplify and restructure the website for future conferences. It was noted that sending money by submitting credit card information could be difficult from certain countries (e.g., India). The ISA should simplify the process and be more accepting of different kinds of payment systems.

The next agenda item were recommendations and thoughts about future RC09 activities. Ulrike Schuerkens suggested that we could create an RC09 Blog. It could be linked to the website and be password protected. Fred Wherry and Nina Bandelj reported on their recent experience as guest bloggers for *orgtheory.com* and noted that blogging is a lot of work. A successful blog would require a few people to take the lead in creating and sustaining it. Habib Khondker also said that he had some experience with blogging, and agreed that it was a lot of work. He said he could help out if needed. He also said someone would need to moderate the blog to prevent or defuse acrimonious interactions.

Ulrike Schuerkens and Nina Bandelj also invited members to express interest if they would like to organize sessions for future conferences. Suggestions should be sent to the RC09 board. There will be a call for sessions at the end of this year and next year a call for abstracts. Due to relatively large membership base, RC09 is allocated several sessions for presentations. Ulrike Schuerkens noted that RC09 couldn't fill as many sessions as we were allotted this year because of the need for more people to organize and chair sessions.

As the last agenda item, Nina Bandelj reported on the process for the upcoming RC09 elections. Before the business meeting, several nominations were already received and all the candidates were in attendance so they gave brief presentations of themselves and their work. Nina Bandelj noted, that as per RC09 statutes, a call will be sent for additional nominations, including self-nominations. Ideally, RC09's board will reflect the regional and gender diversity of its membership.

There were no other business items raised and everyone was invited for more informal discussion and socializing over a complimentary drink at the RC09 reception.

## Members News and Publications

**Jagdish Kumar Pundir**, *Untouchability, Law and Social Change*, Meerut, Ma. KRSP, 2009.

**Jagdish Kumar Pundir**, *Leadership from Below*, Meerut, 2009.

**Gevork Poghosyan**, *Armenian Society in Transition*, Yerevan, ASA, 2009.

Four articles in this book concern the social problems of out-migration from Armenia.

**Stein Ringen, Huck-Ju Kwon, Ilcheong Yi, Taekyoon Kim, and Jooha Lee**, *The Korean State and Social Policy: How South Korea Lifted Itself out of Poverty and Dictatorship to Affluence and Democracy*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“The Korean State and Social Policy” shows an alternative account for the South Korean miracle by revealing how to lift itself out of poverty and dictatorship to affluence and democracy. Beyond the conventional understanding of developmentalism, it provides more comprehensive interpretations for the state's effective governance in the form of its symbiotic coalitions with business, civil society, and other non-state actors.

**Nikolai Genov**, *Global Trends in Eastern Europe*, Ashgate, 2010

Eastern Europe was once clearly defined by the centralized political and economic organization of the societies in the region. They shared the same official ideology and were members of the same alliances. After 1989, the region collapsed in an economic, political, and cultural implosion. What were the moving forces of this profound change? What are its consequences? Could we try to reasonably foresee any future developments?

In this thought-provoking book, Nikolai Genov presents a systematic description and explanation of Eastern European societal transformations after 1989. They are interpreted as adaptations to four global trends; upgrading the rationality of organizations; individualization; spreading of instrumental activism; and universalization of value-normative systems. Adaptations to these trends have generally been successful. However, Genov notes that the process is marked by many failures as well. They are mostly caused by path dependency in the societal development and by the varying quality of relevant decisions, other destructive developments are due to contradictions in the global trends themselves.



**Norkus, Zenonas**, “Soziologische Erklärungen wirtschaftlicher Sachverhalte mit Weber“ [Sociological Explanation of Economic Facts With Weber], in Maurer, Andrea (ed.) *Wirtschaftssoziologie nach Max Weber* [Economic Sociology after Max Weber] Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 2010, pp. 40-68 ISBN 978-3-531-16770-1 (in German)

**Norkus, Zenonas**, “Ar ekonomika ir (arba) etika sustabdys biomedicinos mokslus?“ [Will Economics and/or Ethics Halt Life Sciences?], in Čepaitienė, Auksuolė (Ed.) *Socialinė antropologija, etnografija ir biotechnologija* [Social Anthropology, Ethnography and Biotechnology], Vilnius: LII leidykla, 2010, pp. 153-172, ISBN 978-9955-847-26-7 (in Lithuanian)

Three main forecasts of the future of scientific progress are (1) objectivistic limitism (the progress will end because the finite nature will be exhausted by science), (2) subjectivistic limitism (the progress will end because human cognitive capacities are limited), and (3) infinitism (the progress will go indefinitely). There are different versions of infinitism: the progress will be (a) steady; (b) accelerate; (c) slow down. The paper provides a critical discussion of the forecast of the unlimited scientific progress that, however, will be logarithmically retarded by economic causes defended by American philosopher Nicholas Rescher. While not disputing Rescher's forecast of the deceleration, the author proposes following corrections to his analysis: (1) Rescher's assumption of zero growth of research inputs is unfounded.



Instead, one should assume exponential growth of inputs equal or slightly behind the growth of GDP; (2) The effects of the economy of human inputs produced by the increasing academic global mobility and concentration of the best human resources in the small number of centers of academic excellence should be taken into consideration; (3) given new communication technologies (Internet), the radical revolution in the present intellectual property right regime could expand the supply of human resources for science through more efficient use of the academic potential of the less developed countries. The paper supplements N. Rescher's analysis of the economic retardants of the scientific progress with the discussion of its ethical obstacles. In the close future, the increasingly severe ethical restrictions of the freedom of research promoted by the movement of animal liberation and moral conservatives will have more severe retarding effect on scientific progress in the life sciences and the sciences about complexity in general than economic causes. While economic retardants are critical for the scientific progress in the research of fundamental physical laws, ethical obstacles are more important than economical for the progress in the research of the complex outcomes of those laws in the life and human worlds.

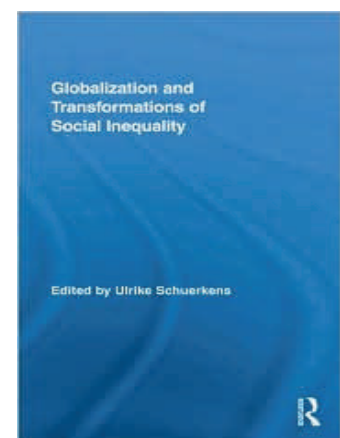
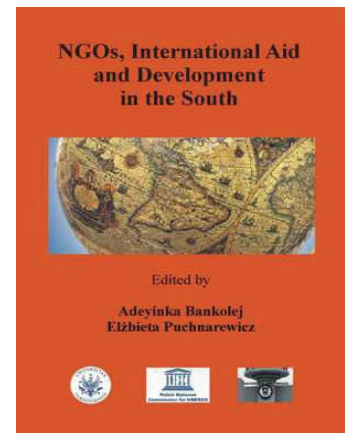
**Bankole, Adeyinka & Elżbieta Puchnarewicz (2008)** *NGOs, International Aid and Development in the South*. (Edited) (Warsaw: University of Warsaw Press). Published with the active support of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO & the Ministry of Science and National Education, Poland. 148 pages; ISBN: 978-83-89502-43-8

This book is a result of many years of cooperation between UNESCO Fellowships Program, Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Warsaw and young scholars from African Universities. They participated in six months scholarship at the Institute of Regional and Global Studies, Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies. One of the UNESCO/Poland fellows, Dr. Adeyinka Bankole, Lecturer at the University of Ibadan, initiated the idea of a book on international aid and self-reliance of developing societies. Together with Dr. hab. Elżbieta Puchnarewicz, they discussed the framework of the book and prepared its final version.

The contributors to this book are young scientists who have got considerable experience as field study researchers. The book provides a variety of articles on international aid and NGOs with different approaches. The chapters encompass large geographical areas and countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

**Bankole, Adeyinka O. (2010)** 'Economic Globalization and the Empowerment of Local Entrepreneurs in Nigeria: A Sociological Analysis', in Ulrike Schuerkens (ed.) *Globalization and Transformations of Social Inequality* (New York: Routledge) Chapter 11; pp. 236 – 259

Social inequality is a worldwide phenomenon. Globalization has exacerbated and alleviated inequality over the past twenty-five years. This volume offers analytical and comparative insights from current case studies of social inequality in more than ten countries within all the major regions of the world. Contributors provide an assessment of the overall social globalization phenomenon in the global world as well as an outlook of transformations of global social inequality in the future. This book will be a timely addition for students and scholars of globalization studies, social inequality, sociology, and cultural and social anthropology.



## New Titles in the Field

Brunetaux, Patrick & Daniel Terrolle (2010) *L'arrière-cour de la mondialisation : Ethnographie des paupérisés*. Paris : Éditions du croquant.

Caillé, Alain (2010) *Le tournant global ou comment le global a transformé les sciences humaines*. Paris: Sopiapol.

Deprez, Camille (2010) *Bollywood: cinéma et mondialisation*. Villeneuve d'Ascq: Presses universitaires du Septentrion.

Falquet, Jules et al. (2010) *Le sexe de la mondialisation: genre, classe, race et nouvelle division du travail*. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po.

Favreau, Louis et al. (2010) *Les défis d'une mondialisation solidaire: mouvements sociaux, démocratie et développement*. Québec: Presses de l'Université du Québec.

Gautney, Heather (2010) *Protest and organization in the alternative globalization era: NGOs, social movements and political parties*. Basingstoke, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

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

Harrison, Graham (2010) *Neoliberal Africa: the impact of global social engineering*. London, New York: Zed Books.

Hennebert, Marc-Antoine (2010) *Les alliances syndicales internationales, des contre-pouvoirs aux entreprises multinationales*. Paris: L'Harmattan.

Ismail, Rahil et al. (eds) (2009) *Southeast Asian culture and heritage in a globalising world : diverging identities in a dynamic region*. Farnham and Burlington: Ashgate.

Kennedy, Paul T. (2010) *Local lives and global transformations: towards world society*. Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Leckie, Jacqueline (ed.) (2009) *Development in an insecure and gendered world. The relevance of the millenium goals*. Ashgate.

Lindio-Mc Govern, Ligaya (ed.) (2009) *Globalization and Third world women. Exploitation, Coping and Resistance*. Ashgate.

Miller, Richard W. (2010) *Globalizing justice: the ethics of poverty and power*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Monnoyer, Marie-Christine (2007) *Mondialisation des services: innovation et dynamiques territoriales*. Paris: L'Harmattan.

Ozer, Ertuna Ibrahim (2009) *Wealth, welfare and the global free market: A Social Audit of Capitalist Economis*. Ashgate.

Petras, James and Henry Veltmeyer (2009) *What's left in Latin America? Regime change in New Times*. Ashgate.

Pookong, Kee & Yoshimatsu Hidetaka (eds) (2010) *Global movements in the Asia Pacific*. Singapore, Hackensack (N.J.) World Scientific.

Rigal-Cellard, Bernadette (ed.) (2010) *Religions et mondialisation: exils, expansions, résistances*. Pessac: Presses universitaires de Bordeaux.

Saint-Paul, Gilles (2008) *Innovation and inequality: how does technical progress affect workers?* Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Turner Bryan S. & Habibul Haque Khondker (2010) *Globalization East and West*. Los Angeles, London: Sage.

Wildavsky, Ben (2010) *The great brain race: how global universities are reshaping the world*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Xing, Li (ed.) (2010) *The Rise of China and the Capitalist World Order*. Ashgate.



## Book Reviews

**COHEN, Daniel, *Globalization and Its Enemies*, MIT Press: 2006.**

**by Diego Jacob, student EHESS, Paris, France.**

Why does globalization arouse so much hostility? Without passion, refusing commonplaces and demonization, and according to a clear argumentation, Daniel Cohen strives to answer this question. His analysis of the effects and stakes of globalization is essentially empirical. He also uses a deductive approach in his argumentation. In *Globalization and Its Enemies*, Daniel Cohen approaches one of globalization's distinctive aspects: the strong disparity of wealth between countries, namely those in the South from those in the North. Although an economist by profession, the author uses numerous disciplines in his reflection. The current globalization is the third of our history according to him: the previous ones - the conquest of America in the 16th century and those of the English counters in the 19th century - ended in tragedy for the populations that experienced them.

The explanation of the clear contrast in levels of economic development among human societies, such as the case in the 16th century, was of an ecological nature. The huge innovations, such as cultivable plants, weren't identical in the North and the South, nor in the East and the West. The more or less homogeneous climate and geography of the Eurasian continent allowed important discoveries, as well as the development of the East-West Axis. Yet the South remained in a relative isolation.

Before the 16th and the 17th centuries, the civilization of the Islamic countries was highly developed compared to the civilizations of Europe in the Middle Ages. Numerous innovations and advances made by the West reached this region. At the dawn of the Renaissance, the Muslim world closed upon itself and the evolution of the West passed unnoticed in the following years. China also shut its doors to the West in 1640. Scientific and cultural exchanges did not take place any longer. Europe was then able to set an advance regarding to these two civilizations.

What strikes on the certainly short time scale of capitalism, is the weak capacity to spread technical progress. In spite of the tremendous decline in costs over distances, the farther we move from a world-economy center, the more the wealth decreases. Far from scattering the economic life in spatial terms and the cost cutting in transportation, population and wealth seem to have concentrated on the North. Northern countries implanted the free market once their industries were developed. Many southern countries have been condemned to do the more thankless tasks.

International trade became important after the Second World War. England left place to USA. Two economic growth logics confronted themselves. On the one hand, the Smithian's international labor division provides an explanation to economic development; and on the other hand, Schumpeterian's logic makes growth depend on the capacity for innovation. For a long time, Europe supported the first logic, whereas the USA supported the second one. Innovation has become the new economic war nerve. The third globalization distresses mainly the close exchange of products and a "globalization of nearness." The goods exchanged inside the European Union are almost identical. For rich countries, globalization is largely imaginary. Today, the value of products is determined not by the time of production, but by conception and prescription tasks. Physical production costs are as expensive as social manufacturing linked to advertisement.

Wealth subtends itself in a series of control levers that lift up themselves by human work. The first control lever corresponds

to education and to work experience. This one activates the second control lever which is the one offered by the machine. Finally, the third control lever, which assures technical progress and organizational efficiency, is set up. Poor countries activate the same control levers as the rich countries but on a lesser scale. The multiplier effect of this gap is a major reason why poor countries delay in front of rich countries. The cancellation of debts seems essential to help poor countries to restore their integrity.

According to the author, the main problem of globalization today is that it doesn't keep its promises. If development consists in giving peoples and societies the means to build deserving fates and to realize their expectations, globalization by this day is changing people's hopes and capacities to act.

The fact that countries today create for the whole planet the technologies that we are going to use is surely advantageous; at the same time, it's the expression of a "tyranny". For Southern countries, to be dispossessed from the creation of new knowledge, of new technologies, amounts to an exclusion from History.

The problem of an uncertain actuality between humanitarian disasters and political-economic chaos is handled in *Globalization and Its Enemies* without forgetting to rest on its deep backgrounds. The author intended to make the book objective and instructive, based on chosen examples, yet the book has turned out to be very instructive, both on the origins and the outcomes of globalization.

However, Daniel Cohen seems to avoid suggesting concrete solutions to the problems he describes. Furthermore, he seems to forget that every rule has its exceptions, and sometimes his generalization goes too far.

**Wolton, D. 2009 "Les identités collectives à l'heure de la mondialisation": coordinated with Ollivier Bruno." CNRS Editions, Paris, Les Essentiels d'Hermès.**

**By Florence Eustache, Master student, EHESS, Paris, France.**

Wolton Dominique, the founder of the International Journal *Hermès*, is also its Chief Editor since 1988. In January 2009, the editorial coordinator developed the topic of identity with six articles previously published in the international journal *Hermès*. Ollivier Bruno coordinated this publication. Most of the authors who wrote the six articles come from Latin America.

Their experience on "The image of the Other" is a real asset for the French interested public to improve their understanding on the concept. Latin American and North American countries have lived for many years in a sort of multiculturalism related to colonialism and post-colonialism. Therefore, Bruno Ollivier suggests in his introduction an analysis on connections between collective identities and globalization.

Four of the six articles were published in 2000, in the number 28 "Latin America, Cultures and Communication". They still present the free-market as an influential factor for the development of identity processes. But it is important that the authors want to center their discussion on the definition of hybridization. These four articles defend this thesis, yet each one does it in a different way.

The first article "European hybridization perspective: food for thought" was written by Stuart Hall, a British researcher born

in Jamaica. He was the founder of the British "Cultural Studies" with Richard Hoggart. In his analysis, Hall restated the definition of hybridization in contrast to a binary view of this notion. He illustrates his thought with the example of European cultures that are regarded as even looking. In this respect, this unity is the fruit of a successful hybridization. According to Stuart Hall, this phenomenon already existed in 1492.

The fourth article "Hybrid cultures and communicative strategies" gives more details on the hybridization concept. Indeed, the Argentinean researcher Nestor Garcia-Canclini who lives in Mexico prefers talking about "cultural hybridization". He "finds the terms better suited for grasping diverse intercultural mixtures than *mestizaj* that is limited to racial mixings or syncretism that almost ever refers to religious combinations or traditional symbolic movements." He doesn't want to establish a Manichean perspective between modernity and traditions in order to understand identity strategies, but instead he recommends focusing our attention on different sights of multiculturalism.

The next article from Renato Ortiz, Brazilian professor of sociology, discusses "World modernity and identities." Consistent with the articles previously presented, he rejects the "Herderian vision [...] cultivated by cultural anthropologists." He insists on thinking according to new referents of identity and he gives the example of young people: Wherever they live, they have the same interests: fashion and music. He demonstrates a reality of globalization that is de-territorialized.

The article of Martin-Barbero Jesús, a Spanish researcher who lives in Colombia accentuates two key words: periphery and a focus on "[c]ultural decentralization and palimpsest of identity". Hence "while from the center the focus seems to be on the question of how to live with diversity, or, better, how to make it livable; from the periphery, the question is different: how to avoid getting lost, being dissolved in the powerful swell of globalization that destabilizes countries and threatens the plurality of their cultures." He dwells upon porosity frontier seen as "de-spatializing the city" and supranational policies.

The last article "Collective identities and the image of the Other: the pitfalls of collectivist thinking" was written by Jan Berting. With the use of the expression "collective identities," Jan Berting explains that "questions of social exclusion, human rights and those of "living together" in our societies depend on the nature of these identities." He defines "collective identities" as a vision of a group's life observed by an inside-view. Consequently, identity serves as a vehicle for collective stereotype. Jan Berting underlines the sense of "us", a group sharing common values in contrast to the values of the "Others". According to him, it is dangerous to confine oneself in one's own culture without considering the others one; this is the reason why he wrote: "The more identity is strong, the more it is ethnocentric [...] and charged of prejudices concerning the other one."

In the conclusion, the author evaluates the French Overseas Departments by theories and several illustrations. According to Dominique Wolton, they are not colonial "pieces of confetti". He suggests a new social and cultural policy that should be independent from the free-market. To some extent, Latin America's theoretical contribution to the debate is interesting. And in this respect the Overseas Departments represent a wealth for France, as they are an experimental field for an alternative globalization, more respectful with every human being.

#### Consulted Websites

<http://www.wolton.cnrs.fr/EN/dwcompil/index.html>, consulted on May 10, 2010

<http://www.waccglobal.org/en/19971-cultural-boundaries-identity-and-communication-in-latin-america/940-Hybrid-Cultures-and-Communicative-Strategies.html>, consulted on May 10, 2010.

<http://www.waccglobal.org/en/19971-cultural-boundaries-identity-and-communication-in-latin-america/938-Cultural-Decentring-and-Palimpsests-of-Identity-.html>, consulted on May 10, 2010.

#### Notes:

1. See <http://www.waccglobal.org/en/19971-cultural-boundaries-identity-and-communication-in-latin-america/940-Hybrid-Cultures-and-Communicative-Strategies.html>, consulted on May 10, 2010.

2. Ibid website.

3. See <http://www.waccglobal.org/en/19971-cultural-boundaries-identity-and-communication-in-latin-america/938-Cultural-Decentring-and-Palimpsests-of-Identity-.html>, consulted on May 10, 2010

4. See "Les identités collectives à l'heure de la mondialisation", CNRS Éditions, les Essentiels d'Hermès, Paris, 2009, p. 23, "Les questions d'exclusion, de droits de l'homme et de celle du "vivre ensemble" de nos sociétés dépendent directement de la nature de ces identités"

5. Ibid, p.67, "plus l'identité est forte, [...], plus elle est ethnocentrique et chargée de préjugés concernant l'Autre."

**Guanghua Wan (ed.)**

***Understanding Inequality and Poverty in China, Methods and Applications***

**Studies in Development Economics and Policy, Palgrave: Macmillan, 2008, 320 p.**

**By Gwendoline Debéthune, PhD student, EHESS, Paris.**

As the title suggests, the papers published in this volume aim at providing a better understanding of inequality and poverty issues in China, including measurement, causes, consequences, and policy implications. The book was published at the end of the project on *Poverty and Inequality in China* launched by the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University (UNU-WIDER). The project was coordinated by Guanghua Wan.

The nine articles are not limited to research on rising inequality as a result of globalization, policy biases, decentralization, and different endowments of geographical resources but provide a deeper analysis of these issues. Moreover, the attention has turned to analyzing inequality at the disaggregated levels of counties, villages, households, and even individuals. This new approach is possible thanks to recent data, now available. Nevertheless, in two of the papers, Tibet is not included in calculations because of lack of data regarding this province of China due to incomplete sources. Nevertheless, it is strange that in research on inequality and poverty in China Tibet is kept out, a province that was ranked by DHI as the poorest province in China in 2006. Other contributions such as those on migrants in urban areas confront similar problems. There is no evidence on the accuracy of statistical data but it is obvious that migrant workers are the poorest people in cities. Furthermore, to analyze globalization and regional income inequality, the authors choose to focus on economic globalization by investigating the exchange of goods and services as well as the flow of foreign capital. However, flows of labor, information, ideology, culture, and living styles are not considered, as relevant data are unavailable or incomplete. But ac-

According to Karl Polanyi, social consequences of globalization contribute to rising inequality. Thereby considering globalization only from an economic point of view calls into question the relevance of such findings.

Another issue discussed in this volume is related to an economic debate on the choice of components used in calculations. The readers of this book should recognize that an economic approach puts into perspective many factors and enables emphasizing relevant trends that otherwise remain invisible. Nevertheless, it is also worth noting that an analysis exclusively based on statistical data may imply biased results. Using tools such as the poverty line that has been globally set at US\$1 per day is also questionable: in 2006, this poverty line was equivalent to less than 680 Yuan, i.e. less than 1 US\$ per day.

Most of the solutions suggested by the contributors in the economic context are quite similar. Indeed, it seems that in order to reduce disparities in capital stock, which is the most important contributor to rural inequality in China, it is necessary to “break the vicious circle existing in the creation of capital”. The authors agree on the necessity to develop a financial market in China, paying particular attention to the development of viable credit markets in poor areas in rural China. Nevertheless, state policies are blamed because of the reforms initiated by the Chinese government over the course of the last two decades (e.g., the early 1990s price reform, social welfare reform, enterprise restructuring, etc.). Thus it would have been legitimate and even of scientific interest to analyze means (such as those on a structural, institutional, financial, and political level) that could command the Chinese state to narrow the gaps. Willy Lam underlines for instance that there are limits for a heavily populated country like China to “promote harmony and development”.

#### Notes:

1. United Nations (UNDP China) and China Institute for Reform and Development, Access for all. Basic public services for 1.3 billion people. Human Development Report China 2007/08, 2008, p.139.
2. Polanyi, Karl, *La Grande transformation: aux origines politiques et économiques de notre temps*, Bibliothèque des sciences humaines, Gallimard: Paris, 1983, 420 p.
3. Professor of Chinese Studies, Akita International University, Japan and Adjunct Professor of History at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

## Calls for Papers and Conference Announcements

The European Sociological Association (ESA) invites scholars from around the globe to come together in Geneva to debate the theme “**social relations in turbulent times**” for its **10th conference** which will be held in **Geneva**, Switzerland, **September 7-10, 2011**. Abstract submission deadline is **February 25, 2011**. For more information, please go to <http://www.esa10thconference.com/>

The International Institute of Sociology (IIS) announced that its next congress - **the 40th IIS World Congress** - will take place in **Delhi** on **16-19 February, 2012**. The theme of the congress is ***After Western Hegemony: Social Science and its Publics***. More information please see <http://www.iisoc.org/>

**Informational Systems Journal (ISJ)** announces a special issue on **Theorizing Development and Technological Change**, which will be edited by Niall Hayes (Lancaster University, UK), Gianluca Miscione (University of Twente, NL), Leiser Silva (University of Huston, USA), and Chris Westrup (Manchester University, UK). This special issue focuses on technology related change in the context of developing countries, and for developing countries. The editors welcome papers from different epistemological positions and from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds who are interested in theorizing development and technology. Deadline for submitting papers is **28th February 2011**. Further details of the journal can be found at <http://disc.brunel.ac.uk/isj/>

### CALL FOR RESPONSIBLE BLOGGERS

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with some information on your particular interest to contribute to the blog and your qualifications.



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