

RC 09 Social Transformations and the Sociology of Development

a Research Committee of the International Sociological Association



Newsletter Fall 2012

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Remarks from Ulrike Schuerkens, President of RC 09

Dear RC 09 members and colleagues,

First of all, my special thanks go to Joshua Dubrow for preparing this excellent Newsletter that informs you as usual on several interesting topics in the field of Social Transformations and the Sociology of Development.

For this Fall 2012 Newsletter, **Nicolai Genov**, professor at the Institute of Global and Regional Development, School for Advanced Social Studies, Slovenia and RC 09 Board member has written an interesting **article** on the current **difficulties of the Euro zone**. I would like to put his analysis at a global level by asking what may be or have already been the outcomes of the Euro crisis on other parts of the **global world**.

First of all, it seems as if the European sovereign debt crisis has **affected countries all over the world**. In an age of global connections, no country can escape Europe's problems. At the beginning of October 2012, the IMF has lowered its forecast for global growth, mainly because of political uncertainties in the United States and Europe. The fund argues that government spending cuts, high unemployment rates and political hesitation lower growth in high-income countries. Moreover, the emerging countries that fueled the global recovery from the 2008 financial crisis have continued to cool off so that global trade has recently slowed down.

Some remarks on the different world regions: Unlike the U.S., **Japan** has assisted Europe by buying EFSF bonds that permit to combat the Euro crisis. Nevertheless, this amount has been rather small in comparison to what the Eurozone needs. Towards the end of 2011, emerging economies began to feel the negative outcomes of the Euro crisis. In fact, **China** sends 20 % of its exports to the EU region but the demand from Europe has been reduced so that Chinese exports have fallen. Chinese enterprises import, at the same time, fewer raw materials necessary to produce its exports. This slow down has in turn had negative outcomes in countries such as Brazil, Australia and many countries in Africa where China has bought raw materials. However, regarding Europe, China is ready to assist the region by investing in economic sectors interesting its economy (e.g. aviation) and via the International Monetary Fund. The role of **Brazil** in the Euro zone is not so clear as Brazil has built strong links with China but is in favor of a multipolar world where this country would like to play an active role no longer

as a developing country but as one of the new regional powers. **Africa South of the Sahara** will feel the European crisis via the reduction of commodity prices and **North Africa** and the **oil-exporting countries** by a probable slowdown in the global demand for oil and a smaller market for their goods. These trends would then increase unemployment and poverty.

These short remarks let us understand why the Euro crisis matters for other global regions and that no regional power can any longer exclude itself from the participation in international affairs. Globalization and the outcomes of the financial crisis continue influencing socioeconomic changes all over the world.

These last remarks permit me to go on with some comments on the **next ISA World Congress in Japan**. We are actively reflecting on session proposals to submit to RC 09 scholars working on social development and transformations. We'll be preparing this event in the common months hoping that you will be able to join us in Yokohama around the topic: "Facing an Unequal world: Challenges for global sociology" where we will continue discussing some of the topics this Newsletter has focused on.

Let me wish you, so far as you are concerned, a good start in the academic year 2012-2013.

Best regards,

Ulrike Schuerkens, RC 09 President

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Minutes from the Business Meeting in Buenos Aires

RC09 held its mid-term business meeting on August 2, 2012 during the Second Forum of the International Sociological Association in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In her new role as Secretary, Tamara Heran Cubillos recorded the minutes, reproduced below.

1. Memory of Willfried Spohn
2. Activity Report
3. Replacement of the RC 09 Secretary
4. ISA World Congress in Yokohama, Japan 2014
5. Future Activities
6. Other

1. Memory of Willfried Spohn

Ulrike Schuerkens, Habibul Khondker, and the RC 09 members present expressed their deep regret for the early death of Willfried Spohn in January 2012. He was a committed RC 09 member and very active in different board functions. In particular, he was Vice-President of RC 09 for the periods 1995-1998 and 2003-2006, and President of RC 09 for the period 1998-2002. He chaired many RC 09 sessions in Congresses and had many friends inside the ISA. Willfried Spohn received a PhD and a Habilitation in Sociology from the Free University of Berlin (Germany). He had several visiting professorships in the US and Germany, and a professorship in Poland. He was a specialist of European Studies and Comparative Historical Sociology. The members present at the Business meeting agreed to organize an open session in honor of Willfried Spohn during the next Congress in Japan in 2014. M. Bodemann volunteered to present a session abstract to be included in the CFP.

2. Activity Report

Ulrike Schuerkens presented some details of the participation of RC 09 in the Second ISA Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires. RC 09 had 15 sessions (excluding the Business Meeting but including 6 joint sessions with RC 07, RC 13, RC 18, RC 31, RC 32) with 113 papers received. However, it was observed that the participation of members of RC 09 sessions should have been higher as some members should have presented papers in sessions of other RCs. Kuang-chi Chang presented some characteristics of the current member list of RC 09. Currently, the committee has 168 members, an increase from 152 members in 2010. 79 are members from category A countries, 35 members are from category B countries and 54 members are from category C countries. Kuang-chi observed that the Forum brought up new members, even if being a member was not a condition for presenting a paper. In the period 2010-2012, 5 issues of the Newsletter have been published, sent to the members and hosted on the internet site. Kuang-chi Chang then presented details of the finances of RC 09 for the period 2010-2012. Affiliation fees from ISA members collected by the ISA in Madrid for the period 2008/2010 were USD 3002. An ISA midterm grant was used to pay the native speaker who checked the book manuscript based on one of the RC09 sessions at Goeteborg under the editorship of U. Schuerkens (Routledge 2012): USD 1200. Other expenses (900 Euros) were made in the context of the 2nd ISA Forum (printing of the RC 09 vouchers and the cocktail in Milion Bar in Buenos Aires (free drinks and free snacks) and for the flowers for the funeral of W. Spohn). Ulrike Schuerkens introduced then the need to amend

the RC 09 Statutes according to the suggestions made by Ann Denis and the ISA Executive Committee, in particular about affiliated and regular members. She proposed to work out changed statutes to be sent to the RC 09 board for discussion and approval and then to the members for an email vote.

3. Replacement of the RC 09 Secretary

Ulrike Schuerkens and Habib Khondker announced the resignation of Kuang-chi Chang as RC 09 secretary, treasurer, and newsletter and website editor. They thanked her for her work and dedication during the two years she spent in this role (2010-2012), noting that she made an important contribution to the administration of RC 09. In order to replace her, two members were proposed to the meeting who had already accepted to assume the different functions: Joshua Dubrow as newsletter and website editor, and Tamara Heran as RC 09 secretary and treasurer. Both of them then contacted the outgoing secretary after the Business meeting in order to discuss the transfer of the different activities.

4. ISA World Congress in Yokohama, Japan 2014

The next ISA Congress is going to take place in Yokohama, Japan, from 13th to 19th July 2014. The theme of the Congress is "Facing an Unequal World. Challenges for Global Sociology". On that occasion, RC 09 will have 22 sessions. It was suggested to the RC 09 members present to think of possible sessions and chairing of sessions. The following topics were proposed: Development and inequality; The transformations of inequality; New forms of inequality; The new middle class. The goal should be to propose sessions connected to the Congress theme. But for the moment, all suggestions are welcomed. The ISA deadline for the call for sessions and proposals for integrative sessions is January 15th, 2013. It was suggested to send short paragraphs with interesting topics rather soon to U. Schuerkens who will prepare a Call for sessions to be circulated among the Board members and some interested colleagues. Board members are invited to send their proposals by November 15th 2012, so that the Board will have rather soon an overview of possible sessions and chairs and can then adapt accordingly the Call for sessions to be published by the ISA.

5. Future Activities

U. Schuerkens explained the changes that RC 09 has to undergo in the statutes. The statutes need to be amended according to the suggestions of the ISA Executive Committee, as it was already mentioned. She will work on a proposal to be sent to the RC 09 members for approval once the RC 09 Board has discussed and approved these proposed changes.

6. Other

J. Dubrow proposed to conduct a short survey of RC 09 members in order to obtain basic information about their research interests. The participants in the meeting welcomed the proposal. It was agreed that J. Dubrow would work on the survey. T. Heran offered to be a volunteer in order to collaborate in this initiative, for example, by translating the survey into Spanish and French. There were no other points on the agenda. RC 09 members were invited to an informal cocktail where they could continue the discussion and socialize among RC 09 members and friends.

The Eurozone Crisis as Moving Force of Institutional Transformation

by Nikolai Genov

According to the Treaty of Maastricht (1992), national finances, together with the areas of migration and social policies, remained in the jurisdiction of EU member states. The implementation of the Treaty made it an open secret that some governments in the Eurozone were regularly spending much more than their budget revenues could allow. The difference was covered by borrowings.

The global financial and economic crisis after 2008 sharpened the sensitivity to the effects of the bankruptcy of large banks and companies. The awareness rose about potentially devastating consequences of sovereign debt crises. It became clear that the possible default of the Greek state could have domino effects by destabilizing the economies of lender countries and accelerating the default of other states in the Eurozone. The accumulation of risky sovereign debts could no more be acceptable.

The typical explanation of the risks of sovereign debt crisis underlines the lax policies of public spending. This explanation is simplistic. The causes of the crisis are more complex and have accumulated for decades. Only some causes are related to domestic policies. The major problem concerns the different competitiveness of national economies in the Eurozone. The account deficits of the less competitive national economies have been balanced by borrowings from institutions in countries running current account surpluses. The Treaty of Maastricht did not introduce any regulation mechanisms for the financial exchange in the Eurozone. Thus, the Treaty was designed and implemented as a far-reaching deviation from the ideal of an optimum currency area (Mundell, 1968: 177f.). No balancing between countries running account surplus and deficit as well as no common wage and taxation policies were foreseen and introduced. The stress on the advantages of economic integration was not matched by considerations about political regulation of the economic processes (Busch and Hirschel, 2011). Thus, the disparity between the appeals of European politicians for stricter control on national budgets and their opposition against the deepening of the European political integration could not be viable any more.

The management of the risks related to the debt crisis had to be regarded as collective responsibility and organized correspondingly. Two strategic alternatives became obvious. The first was the coordinated action for financial support to the Greek government requiring changes of the Maastricht organizational construction. The second was the radical questioning of this construction with all consequences for institutions, countries, the European Union and possibly the world (Lorca-Susino, 2010: 183 f.; Lynn, 2010: 223f.). Contrary to the neo-liberal spirit of the Treaty of Maastricht, interventionist policies of the Union became unavoidable due to the critical circumstances. Change management had to become transformation of EU institutions.

The long deliberations and negotiations lastly brought about an outcome. In May 2010 the European Financial Stability Facility was established. Together with the IMF the Eurozone countries immediately offered a rescue package to Greece after the country's government debt was rated as junk. Bailout was approved for Ireland, followed by a rescue package for Portugal. The European Central Bank decided to generously support the Greek government by buying its bonds despite their junk status. The same procedure applied to Irish and Portuguese governmental bonds.

The background of the support to the Greek state was the

move towards tighter budgetary control of EU states by EU institutions. This implied deepening of the economic and political integration in the Eurozone and thus in the European Union. The decision taken by the Eurozone governments in July 2011 to offer credit lines to Eurozone countries having difficulties on the financial markets became a milestone in this direction. The deepening the European integration became acceptable under the critical conditions. The temporary European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) was replaced by the permanent European Stability Mechanism. The most radical step in the direction of deepening of the economic and political integration (Togati 2011) in the EU was taken in December 2011. The European Council – with the exception of the United Kingdom - took path breaking decisions about stricter financial control by the EU on the budget policies of the member states.

The long delay of the needed action and the various forms of open or hidden opposition against the implementation of the rescue measures for countries in critical condition made the problems of

“...the handling of the Greek sovereign debt crisis became the turning point in upgrading the organizational rationality of the European Union.”

the European integration manifest. The appeals about solidarity notwithstanding, the decisions for rescue measures were primarily guided by concerns that there would be greater losses in case that the support would not be offered. Under this condition the handling of the Greek sovereign debt crisis became the turning point in the upgrading the organizational rationality of the European Union. This is a development which is certainly not the best wish of some EU governments but became possible due to the needs of risk management. If the issuing of euro-bonds could be the better long-term solution of the problem – this is still to be clarified in details (Delpla and von Weizsäcker, 2011). Whatever financial instruments to be invented and applied, this could not be efficiently done without an institution which would play the role of European Ministry of Finance. It will have to implement the control on state budgets, fiscal policies and international competitiveness of the EU member states. The functioning of this mechanism is expected to become a tremendous step forward in the direction of European political integration.

These organizational transformations are existentially relevant for the everyday life of the citizens in the European Union (Allen, Carletti and Corsetti, 2011). One may be struck by the fact that the citizens have not been involved in important decisions in whatever way. How democratic this handling of risks is – this is a fundamental open question. The issue does not concern the isolation of voters from the organizational decision-making and control alone. Even national politicians stood under the immense pressure to accept policies which have been designed and decided outside of their countries.

Another sensitive issue is related to the way in which the risks under scrutiny are being handled by austerity measures predominantly. Experts suggested to consider the fostering of private demand as potentially more efficient way for handling the risks since economic growth is the only solution of the fiscal troubles in the long run (Blanchard, 2011: xiii). In fact, austerity measures are the typical way of socializing risks.

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The Eurozone Crisis ...

However, there are identifiable individuals, groups and organizations having privatized the profits from policies which caused the risks. The same individuals, groups and organizations usually remain least hit by the austerity measures when socializing the risks. How far this pattern of risk management corresponds to the expectations for social justice – the question remains open for debate.

The most relevant lesson from the handling of the sovereign debt crisis concerns the need to react to internal and external challenges to the EU by fostering economic growth (Carlin, 2011: 9). The simple truth is that efficient budget consolidation is possible under the conditions of economic growth and rising employment. More precisely, the crucial issue is the fostering of economic growth in countries which are particularly hit by the sovereign debt crisis and go through economic recession in the same time. The resolving of this double sided issue by joint efforts is the crucial test for the efficiency of the European solidarity. The carefully designed and implemented policy of Eurobonds could probably become a pillar for strengthening this solidarity. Without it the European integration might run to more and more intensive risks with destructive outcomes. The mastering of this task requires imagination, rational calculation and decisive action. It is a challenging and promising research task to comparatively analyze the institutional transformations for managing risk situations both at local levels and at the level of the European integration.

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Fair Trade and World Culture

by Kristen Shorette

Fair trade (FT) is a market-based social justice movement that aims to reduce economic, social and environmental inequalities between countries by equalizing international economic exchange. This non-state, voluntary regulatory system counters the principles of international trade established by the World Trade Organization. Members of the FT system, which span the globe via economic networks, include producer, retail, wholesale, labeling, and governing organizations. As a multi-stakeholder system, all members of FT participate in the development of and must abide by a series of alternative principles governing production and the distribution of profits along global value chains of FT goods, the most popular of which are coffee, tea and bananas.

Currently, two distinct lines of inquiry dominate social scientific research on FT. The first area of research interrogates the theoretical implications of a market-based social justice project. Research in this area considers whether or not it is possible to counter social problems caused by global markets with more global markets, albeit of a different kind. Is it possible to alleviate the negative effects of markets – income inequalities, environmental degradation etc. – from within the market itself? While the degree of skepticism varies, most scholars agree that this contradiction at least restricts the potential for FT to continue its rapid expansion and have a revolutionary effect on the structure of global markets and the outcomes they produce (Bacon 2005; Reynolds et al. 2007).

The second key line of social scientific research on FT assesses the impact of FT on participating producers. Does FT have its intended effect on producer communities in the global South? Does participation in FT alleviate economic, social and environmental problems as intended? A growing body of research, comprised of case studies of producer groups and commodities, suggests that FT has positive, though limited, effects on participating producers including increased access to credit and international markets, improved income and reduced environmental hazards (Jaffee 2007; Linton 2008, 2012; Ruben 2009).

Future research should expand on the case study work and examine cross-national and over time trends in FT while paying particular attention to the transition from direct networks to labeling schemes in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Why did the FT system emerge and expand when it did? What explains the concentration of producer organizations in some locations over others? Why do some developed countries consume more FT goods than others? Answering these questions will contribute to our understanding of the formation of new markets and the governance of international trade as well as practitioners of FT who seek to expand its positive effects throughout the global South.

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Fair Trade...

One of the promising avenues of research is to link the study of fair trade to neoinstitutionalism in sociology, or world society literature. World society theory highlights the institutional foundations of global processes. From this perspective, the world has constituted a single world polity with a corresponding world culture for over a century. This culture becomes imbedded in social organization. The result is surprisingly similar organizational structures, such as school curriculum, development strategies, and state bureaucracies, despite huge differences in location, national history and resources across countries (Meyer et al. 1997).

World society scholars explain cross-national and over-time variation on a wide range of indicators in terms of different levels of national integration into world culture. They highlight international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) as carriers of world culture which promote universalism, individualism, volunteeristic authority, rational progress, and world citizenship, and diffuse blueprints for nation-state institutions (Boli and Thomas 1997). This translates into the more specific world cultural norms of, human rights, environmentalism and neoliberalism, for example. Research in this field generally finds that countries with citizen memberships in more INGOs results in greater commitment to and achievement of these world cultural norms (Frank et al. 2000).

The majority of research in this field examines cross-national variation in the adoption of environmental, educational, and political policies. For example, they examine the cross-national over-time adoption of environmental treaties or women's suffrage laws. More recently, however, world society scholars have begun to examine the relationship between integration into world culture and practices associated with normative change. For example, does the prevalence of environmental INGOs or adoption of international environmental treaties result in more environmentally friendly practices within those nations (Schofer and Hironaka 2005; Shorette 2012)?

Relatively little work in the world society tradition considers international markets or economic flows. However, recent work on related phenomena points to the fruitfulness of investigating the global economy from a world society perspective. For example, Hennis et al. (2005) examine the effects of world society on the adoption of neoliberal economic policies cross-nationally. They find that international forces have a strong effect on adoption of privatization reform in the telecommunications sector across nations. Likewise, in a very recent study, Lim and Tsutsui (2012) found that ties to world culture strongly predicted that corporations would adopt corporate social responsibility initiatives.

An application of the world society perspective to the study of fair trade could fruitfully consider the role of the diffusion of world cultural norms of environmentalism, equality, and human rights in the formation and expansion of the FT market over time as well as the variation in the production and consumption of FT products cross-nationally. Addressing these questions would not only contribute to the study of fair trade but would give us a greater understanding of the effect of cultural forces on the global economy.

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The Sociology of Logistics by Elizabeth A. Sowers

The logistics industry, or the “goods movement” industry,” includes the complex of activities that is responsible for moving commodities throughout the entire production process, from their origins as raw materials to their ultimate stage of commodities for sale on the market. In recent decades of globalization, productive activities have become widely fragmented and dispersed throughout the world, often occurring in multiple stages across various locations that are far removed from the ultimate points of sale and consumption. These dynamics have led to the emergence of the logistics industry in an effort to expediently move goods from where they are made to where they are sold. In other words, the logistics industry functions in a brokerage or intermediary role in the global economy by connecting the worlds of production and consumption.

The logistics industry has only recently become the subject of sociological study, but has long been analyzed from a business/economics perspective. Most research in this area tends to focus on how to improve the functioning of logistics activities in order to make them more productive, efficient and beneficial to the economy at large (Rodrigue 2006; Tavasszy et al. 2003). Sometimes called “supply chain management,” this topic has produced both a large scholarly literature as well as a rapidly growing professional practice of logistics professionals charged with organizing logistics activities at the corporate or industry level.

On the other hand, sociologists are less interested in how to improve the functioning of supply chains and instead conceptualize of the logistics industry and its workers as being particularly important economic actors, based on their strategic brokerage activities in the global economy (Silver 2003; Bonacich and Wilson 2008). If the logistics industry and its workers did not exist, or ceased to function, it would be impossible to sustain a system of productive activities dispersed so widely from the contexts of consumption. Because of this, sociologists generally agree that the structural position of logistics in global economic networks places the industry, and potentially its workers, in a seat of power.

A crucial issue for new research is to achieve an extended understanding of the work experience of logistics employees in the U.S. in an effort to identify the conditions under which workers within the logistics industry leverage the power of their brokerage positions to achieve concrete goals or improved working conditions. Accomplishing this requires understanding logistics work, specifically, as part of the broader discussion about the nature of work in the global economy.

In this vein, sociological research aims to better understand what aspects of the global economy influence workers and with what consequences. Scholars highlight global forces such as capital and product market volatility, financialization of the global economy, increased presence of multinational corporations (MNCs), as well as the prominence of international organizations (Bandelj, Shorette, and Sowers 2011; Krippner 2011) as important influences on work in the global economy. Market volatility leads to product price fluctuations as well as variations in exchange rates, which, combined with the ability of investors to relocate in search of higher profits and the emphasis on profit and shareholder value stemming from the financialization of the

economy, produces a set of global forces that impact the situation of workers within global economic networks. Next, scholars specify the impact that these global forces have on workers, with research generally highlighting more negative consequences than positive ones (Bandelj, Shorette, and Sowers 2011). In the developed world, for instance, flexible forms of work among highly-skilled workers have increased, which allows such workers more control over their work experiences, but global dynamics have also brought liabilities to workers, principally in the forms of increased job insecurity, work hours and work stress (Burchell et al. 2002; Green 2006).

The logistics industry and its workers may be powerfully positioned in the global economy, but previous research also demonstrates that the logistics industry is made up of a relatively small number of highly paid, executive level jobs and a much larger population of jobs characterized by temporary work contracts, long hours, low pay and poor working conditions (Bonacich and De Lara 2009; Monaco and Ritter 2009; Bonacich and Wilson 2008; Belman et al. 2004; Belzer 2000). In many ways, it seems that the experiences of the majority of logistics workers in recent years is consistent with the trends in the larger discussion of workers in the global

“If the logistics industry and its workers did not exist, or ceased to function, it would be impossible to sustain a system of productive activities dispersed so widely from the contexts of consumption.”

economy, especially in regard to negative changes to working lives. Increased emphasis on profits and the bottom line at the corporate level coming from shareholders, coupled with increasing costs of transport and related activities, seem to be especially important factors that influence the structure of the logistics workforce as a large contingent workforce subjected to long hours, no benefits and low wages (Bonacich and Wilson 2008; Belzer 2000).

In light of the experience of logistics workers, which dovetails with the larger picture of work in the global economy and the sociological understanding of their potential power as brokers of global economic networks, many open questions remain. For instance, why is it that a group of workers in a powerful structural position in the economy experiences such poor working conditions? Why have these workers not been able to leverage their structural power in an effort to achieve improved working lives? Are logistics workers aware of the power with which their industry is endowed? If so, do they try to access it? Are efforts for organizing and leveraging power simply unsuccessful? Or do they not think that collective action would benefit them? Perhaps they are simply not aware of the power they could harness. Questions such as these will be at the heart of understanding logistics workers within their broader role as brokers of global economic networks.

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Visual Sociology



On a Sunday in August 2012, 50 meters outside the front gate to the *Feria de Matadores* in Buenos Aires, was an unsponsored community festival, featuring children's rides, games, food and various goods for sale. Above, a band plays in the courtyard of this festival.

Book Review

Romualdas Kacevičius, a lecturer at the Department of Political Science at Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania, reviews the 2012 book, *Creation of the Welfare State in Lithuania: Myth or Reality?* edited by Jolanta Aidukaitė, Natalija Bogdanova and Arvydas Guogis (in Lithuanian):

In the last 50 years, quite a number of books, textbooks, monographs and a great many articles were published on the idea and problems of the welfare state. It is one of the prevailing topics in state policy analysis in public and academic discourse of the Western world. Lithuania tries not to fall behind in this research; rapid processes of the development of the state make this topic of great importance to Lithuanians. Even though little research has been carried out on the broader idea of the phenomenon of the welfare state here, separate topics in social politics were and are intensively discussed. A monograph by the researchers of Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Vilnius University and Mykolas Romeris University (Jolanta Aidukaitė, Natalija Bogdanova and Arvydas Guogis) *Creation of the Welfare State in Lithuania: Myth or Reality?* was published in the summer of 2012. It is a new, thorough research endeavor about the welfare state that confirms the determination of Lithuanian researchers to carry out a detailed and rigorous analysis of social policy. The monograph was released based on the research financed by the Research Council of Lithuania and conducted in the Lithuanian Social Research Centre, according to the project „The Transformation of Welfare State in Lithuania: the Origin, Specific Features and Main Causal Forces Behind its Development“ (No. SIN-16/2010, project leader – senior lecturer Jolanta Aidukaitė). The monograph is full of important and unique insights and it distinguishes as the first attempt in the Lithuanian academic field to portray an exhaustive overall analysis of the development of the state of Lithuania. It is an impressive work.

The research is divided into two parts (theoretical and practical) where the authors present a broader conception of the welfare state and reveal the process of the development of the system of social welfare of Lithuania from historical and modern perspective. The authors of the monograph not only try to answer the so seemingly simple question: is Lithuania a welfare state? If so, what are its characteristics? The book elaborates the way the welfare state developed: the course of social reforms, structuring of the system of social security, how obstacles on the way to the welfare state were overcome, the problems that remained unsolved and the factors and actors that made an impact on the process. A much more complex question – how the most recent processes in political-economic Olympus and the most relevant post-crisis changes in social policy are going to affect further development of the welfare state in Lithuania – remains unanswered. By this the authors encourage further research of the welfare state and urge to continue this discussion in the public sphere.



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<p>RC09 Member Research Projects and Publications</p>

Tamara Heran, Secretary of RC09, announces her research agenda and two recent publications:

Tamara Heran is an anthropologist from the Austral University of Chile. She was awarded a Master of Social Sciences in Comparative Studies of Development from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, France, focusing on development, vocational training and certification of labor competencies. Heran's current research is an empirical study of globalization, work, and gender based on seasonal agricultural workers of the agro-export sector in Chile.

Heran, Tamara. 2012. "From Male to Female. Conversion and Gender Relations in Times of Crisis: A Study of Seasonal Workers of Agribusiness in Chile", in Ulrike Schuerkens, 2012, *Socioeconomic Outcomes of the Global Financial Crisis: Theoretical Discussion and Empirical Case Studies*, Routledge Advances in Sociology, New York and London.

Heran, Tamara and Patrick Livenais. 2011. "Flexibilité du travail et nouvelles mobilités en zone aride: mobilisateurs et mobilisés de l'agro-industrie d'exportation du Limarí (Chili)." *Sécheresse*, 22(4): 260-266.

V. Rama Krishna, Assistant Professor in Political Science, Tumkur University, Karnataka, India, announces ongoing research projects and publications. Research Project entitled "Sociopolitical Development of Valmiki Tribes in Hyderabad Karnataka Region: A Critical Analysis and Strategies for Development" funded by the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi and approved grant-in-aid of Rs. 3, 88,075/- (Three Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand and Seventy Five rupees) as a Project Director for the duration of two years.

V. Rama Krishna's publications from this research include:

"Climate Change: Policy Perspective for India," published in International Conference Proceedings on Environment & Humanity "Eco Revolution – 2012," organized by Sadaham Sevana, Sri Lanka & Eco Needs Foundation, India with Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, Ministry of Power and Energy, Sri Lanka, International Society for Science and Technology, India held on 18th – 20th Aug, 2012 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

"Sustainability of Rainwater Harvesting: Utilization, Management and Policy Interventions," published in International Conference Proceedings on Environment & Humanity "Eco Revolution – 2012," organized by Sadaham Sevana, Sri Lanka & Eco Needs Foundation (as above) held on 18th – 20th Aug, 2012 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

"Rainwater Harvesting as Resource for Conjunctive Use: A Snap Shot," published in International Conference Proceedings on Environment & Humanity "Eco Revolution – 2012," organized by Sadaham Sevana, Sri Lanka & Eco Needs Foundation (as above) held on 18th – 20th Aug, 2012 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Emma Porio, Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Ateneo de Manila University and ex-officio Chair of the Governing Council of the Philippine Social Science Council, presents some of her recent publications:

Porio, Emma. *Vulnerability, Adaptation and Resilience Among the Poor in Flooded Riverlines in Metro Manila. Environments of the Poor*, Oxford University Press, 2012.

Porio, Emma. *Vulnerability, Adaptation and Resilience Among Marginal Riverine Communities in Metro Manila. Asian Journal of Social Science* 45 (2011): 425-445.

Porio, Emma. *Decentralization, Power and Networked Governance Practices in Metro Manila. Space and Polity*, London: Taylor and Francis, April 2012.

Abstract:

The institutionalisation of decentralisation among urban local governments in the Philippines since the 1990s has been highly documented. While most of the studies have hailed its progressive development, a few have argued that decentralisation has also led to the further entrenchment of traditional élites and their allied power structures in local governance. This paper argues that, while decentralisation has allowed some local governments to initiate effective, efficient and accountable structures, thus becoming more responsive to the needs of their constituents, it has also led to the strengthening of traditional élites/political families and allied power structures as well as the creation of new ones. In short, decentralisation has 'selectively' democratised as well as reinforced existing power structures through the entrenchment of élite political families in urban governance and development. Utilising the concept of networked governance practices, this paper examines how local chief executives and allied officials have transformed local power structures through the mobilisation of decentralisation and democratisation discourses/strategies within and across the government bureaucracies, civil society organisations (non-government organisations, people's organisations and private-sector or business groups). Their mobilisation of such strategies is part of the overall governance framework of local government units to become locally/globally competitive amidst a weak metropolitan governance system in Metro Manila. The study describes how decentralisation compels local governments and their officials to deal strategically with the competing demands of economic growth and social and environmental governance, by reconfiguring or recasting existing power structures/practices through democratisation strategies/discourses, to respond to the needs of their constituencies, especially marginalised sectors like the urban poor. The paper concludes that the concept of networked governance practices allows us a broader understanding of how decentralisation promotes democratisation while strengthening 'selectively' traditional political élites and allied power bases in civil society and the business sector. These arguments are illustrated by examining the implementation of two local government environmental and social housing programmes—the Pasig Green City Programme and the Land and Housing Programme in Las Piñas City in Metro Manila.

Recent Publications of Interest

Aglietta, Michel and Guo Bai (10/2012) *China's Development: Capitalism and Empire*. Routledge Series: Rethinking Globalizations: London, New York.

Antonopoulos, Rania and Sara Hsu (eds) (10/2012) *Gender Perspectives on the Global Economic Crisis*. Routledge Frontiers of Political Economy: London, New York.

Arora-Jonsson, Seema (2012) *Gender, Development and Environmental Governance: Theorizing Connections*. Routledge Research in Gender and Society: London, New York.

Bastia, Tanja (ed.) (12/2012) *Migration and Inequality*. Routledge: London, New York.

Bigsten, Arne (ed.) (3/2013) *Globalization and Development: Rethinking Interventions and Governance*. Routledge: London, New York.

Cohen, Michael (ed.) (2012) *The Global Economic Crisis in Latin America*. Routledge Studies in the Modern World Economy: London, New York.

Frankema, Ewout and Frans Buelens (eds) (1/2013) *Colonial Exploitation and Economic Development*. Series: Routledge Explorations in Economic History: London, New York.

Gedde, Maia (12/2012) *Working in International Development and Humanitarian Assistance: A Career Guide*. Routledge: London, New York.

Georgeou, Nichole (2012) *Neoliberalism, Development, and Aid Volunteering*. Routledge Studies in Development and Society: New York, London.

Halperin, Sandra (3/2013) *Global Development*. Routledge: Critical Issues in Global Politics: New York, London.

Holden, Andrew (11/2012) *Tourism, Poverty and Development in the Developing World*. Routledge: London, New York.

Okereke, Chukwumerije and Patricia Agupusi (9/2012) *Socio-Economic Development in Africa: Successes, Issues and Trends in Home-grown Policies*. Routledge Studies in African Politics and International Relations: London, New York.

Sajed, Alina (01/2013) *Postcolonial Encounters with International Relations: The Politics of Transgression*. Routledge Series: Interventions: London, New York.

Tomalin, Emma (02/2012) *Religions and Development*. Routledge Perspective on Development: London, New York.

Wilkinson, Rorden and David Hulme (eds) (2012) *The Millennium Development Goals and Beyond: Global Development after 2015*. Global Institutions Series Routledge: London, New York.

Facts about the History of the International Sociological Association

Social science historian Jennifer Platt, of the University of Sussex, England, wrote a short piece on the history of ISA presidents. From her history comes these interesting facts:

The first ISA president was Louis Wirth, from the U.S. There have been four presidents from the U.S., three from Great Britain, and two each from France and Poland. Aside of these, no other country had more than two.

Only two of 18 ISA presidents came from countries outside of the U.S. and Europe: F. Henrique Cardoso from Brazil and T. K. [Tharailath] Oommen from India.

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