

International Sociological Association
Thematic Group on Human Rights and Global Justice (TG03)

Newsletter

TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice

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Editor

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From the President

Looking Forward

Relevant and consequential. After the United Nations determined over 4000 people have been killed, the Arab League has expelled Syria, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has called for international interventions that will protect Syrians from its government crackdowns. After years of house arrest, Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi announced that she would rejoin the Myanmar political system. The government of China, however, has sentenced to prison for ten years Liu Xiaobo, a writer, dissident, and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner. In the United States, the organization SOA Watch indicates it will take the U.S. government to court to demand that the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly the School of the Americas, publicly release names of its graduates and instructors, some of who SOA Watch says were trained to violate human rights.

It is an understatement to say that human rights and global justice, the work of the Thematic Group 03 of the International Sociology Association, not only continues to be relevant, these concerns absolutely are necessary during these difficult times that nevertheless reveal exciting moments of opportunity and possibility. We are happy to work together on teaching and research on human rights and global justice.

Welcome. We welcome new officers. TG03's President is Brian Gran of Case Western Reserve University (Brian.Gran@Case.Edu) and its Secretary/Treasurer is Manisha Desai (manisha.desai@uconn.edu) of the University of Connecticut. The Group's Newsletter and Website Editor is Eunna Lee-Gong (eunna.leegong@gmail.com) of the University of Essex. TG03's NGO Liaison is Alice M. Nah (alicenah@gmail.com) of the Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York.

Thank you! For their leadership and other crucial contributions, we thank Keri Iyall Smith, the first TG03 Coordinator, and Judith Blau, the Interim TG03 Coordinator. Their hard work has placed TG03 in a strong position to seize opportunities and to move forward as human rights and global justice assume even greater roles in international debates of what people should expect and experience all over the world.

This newsletter calls attention to important, timely matters, including the new TG03 listserv, the soon-to-be distributed Statutes, and goals we want to set for TG03, as well as the upcoming ISA Forum!

Pack your bags. A reminder of the 2nd Forum to be held August 1-4 in Buenos Aires, Argentina! Edward Sieh, Lasell College, is TG03'S Programme Coordinator and Silvia Guemureman, Universidad de Buenos Aires, is TG03's Liaison in Argentina. TG03 will hold an important Business Meeting during the Forum. We hope you will attend the Forum: we look forward to learning more about each other's work. Abstracts are due December 15!

New TG03 Listserv. By now you should have received an email inviting you to join the new TG03 Listserv. For information, contact Brian Gran (Brian.Gran@Case.Edu).

Statutes. As a new Thematic Group, ISA mandates TG03 submit statutes governing our group's organization and management. A draft of these statutes will be distributed soon. We look forward to your input as TG03 moves forward on this exciting step.

Moving forward. It is our hope that we will continue on with TG03's successes of contributing to the ISA while reaching out to sociologists and others globally. We believe it is crucial that TG03 continue to strive for a truly international and diverse membership. We want to share knowledge and research: do you want TG03 to sponsor a working paper series that would allow all of us to share and receive constructive feedback on our work, while disseminating information and ideas on human rights, welfare, and global justice? How is our work relevant to a broad community of NGO members, government officials, and activists? What can we learn from activists and advocates?

Stay in touch! This newsletter and TG03's website are key means by which we want to communicate with all TG03 members and other folks interested in human rights and global justice. Please let us know what are the best means to reach you. We are committed to trying different formats, including Skype meetings and webinars.

What works best for you? What can we learn from you? Let us know; we are looking forward.

Brian K. Gran
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Call for Papers

Call for Papers 1

**The Second ISA Forum of Sociology *Social Justice and Democratization*,
Buenos Aires, Argentina August 1-4 2012
TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice**

Introduction by Edward Sieh, Programme Coordinator

Please consider submitting an abstract to the Thematic Group on Human Rights and Global Justice, TG03. This thematic group is offering a series of exciting, timely and interesting panel sessions addressing various important topics relative to human rights today. These sessions offer diverse perspectives on human rights, such as the importance of community, development, and the rights of youth, feminism, noncitizens, human dignity, and the risk society. It is fully expected that much stimulating discussion and mutual support will abound as we address human rights and global justice for everyone.

Session A organized by Judith Blau attends to the importance played by communities, towns and cities in promoting human rights especially as they encourage empathy and inter-group

understanding. Session B organized by Kristy Kelly considers the importance of rights based approaches to development, as they relate to social justice issues such as gender equality; protecting indigenous rights; managing climate change; reducing HIV/AIDS transmission and building capacity for peace keeping and good governance. Session C organized by Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcantara considers how we can promote the human rights of indigenous youth in an environment where they are forced to experience child labour, forced displacement and migration, begging, academic failure and violence. Session D organized by Sylvanna Falcon considers transnational feminism and human rights, especially how feminist and the women's movement have responded to increasing inequalities and injustices in both national and cross-national context, with special attention given to innovative ways advocates have drawn attention to human rights issues. Session E organized by Claudia Tazreiter considers the human rights of noncitizens amid the discussion of cosmopolitan citizenship and global justice while actual rights reflect the simple fate of place of birth. Session F organized by Ed Sieh addresses the search for dignity and the oppression of the masses as exhibited in instances of torture, alienation, capitalism, militarism and the privatization of essential needs. Session D, a joint session with Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty TG04 offers a very interesting session on risk, human rights and global justice. Please consider participating in this conference the conference should offer some very interesting discussion.

Deadlines

- On-line abstract submission **from August 25 to December 15, 2011.**
- All Forum participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay the early registration fee by **April 10, 2012**, in order to be included in the programme. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Programme or Abstracts Book.
- On-line registration will open **August 25, 2011.**

Proposed sessions

Sessions are 90 minutes in length and members of the thematic group are invited to submit papers that address many of the various issues related to Human Rights and Social Justice.

**** Only abstracts submitted through [ISA website platform](#) will be considered.**

Session A Social or community conditions that nurture and sustain human rights

Organiser and Chair

Judith BLAU, University of North Carolina, United States, judith_blau@unc.edu

Because Human Rights treaties are framed from a legal perspective, and some would say from a western legal perspective, they often do not highlight the social or community conditions that nurture and sustain these rights. I have argued, for example, that the American culture that emphasizes individualism and competition is not conducive to the support and development of human rights. Localism is also not amenable to American culture, with its high rates of geographic mobility, and yet peoples' engagement in their local community promotes empathy and inter-group understanding.

We can step back from individual rights that Human Rights treaties emphasize and instead focus on the qualities of communities, towns, and cities that promote human rights. I think that we, as sociologists, can make a distinctive contribution to the theory and praxis of human rights.

Session B Localizing global justice: The politics of education, training and development

Organiser and Chair

Kristy KELLY, Columbia University, United States, kk2772@columbia.edu

Education and training are often cited as key to the successful “harmonization” of human rights with development planning. Today, rights-based approaches to development are linked to social justice issues such as increasing gender equality; protecting indigenous rights; managing climate change; reducing HIV/AIDS transmission; and building capacity for peace-keeping and good governance. Nevertheless, training has rarely been found to have the trickle-down (or up) effect that organizers intend. In fact, there is growing concern from peripheral locations that training actually promotes the idea of human rights as “foreign” or “western” or a “donor-led fad” inappropriate to local needs and development processes. Still education and training continues to be cited in national development strategies and donor reports as key to promoting cultural change at the local level.

Recognizing that education, training and development are always political processes this panel invites papers which address the role that training plays in localizing global justice. We are particularly interested in papers that illuminate the diversity and complexity of human rights education and provide insights into how training is distinctly autonomous, decolonizing, de-globalizing and empowering for those involved. Papers might address a variety of themes including curricular development, pedagogical practices, trainer-trainee interactions, resistance strategies, the role of social movements, or any other topic related to the politics of human rights education. Together, papers will provide insights into how sociologists might better theorize human rights education as a space, place and process for localizing global justice norms and practices.

Session C Human rights: How do we tackle the problems of indigenous youth?

Organiser and Chair

Maria de Lourdes Beldi de ALCANTARA, University of São Paulo, Brazil, marialcantara@mac.com

The ongoing discrimination of indigenous peoples and their members, the dramatic and massive changes to their environment, the systematic violations of their rights and their powerlessness in the face of decisions that affect their development have, in many cases, led to unsustainable situations with traumatic consequences, both individual and collective.

By virtue of their greater vulnerability, one of the groups most affected by these problems are children and youths; the disproportionate presence among indigenous children of the worst forms of child labour, forced displacement and migration, begging, academic failure, violence and other constraints all mean that special attention needs to be given to the situation of these indigenous groups.

One of the most disturbing responses to this desperate situation has been an increase in the number of suicides among young indigenous boys and girls. Suicide rates among some peoples are up to 30 times higher than the national average. These shocking figures among indigenous youth represent a serious wake up call for national societies and States in terms of the injustice and unsustainability of the exclusion suffered by indigenous peoples with regard to decisions relating to their development, and are in violation of children’s right to life, whilst also

epitomising the effects of many other violations of these peoples' human rights.

In this session we intend to undertake an interdisciplinary analysis of these issues and try to understand the causes of these situations at the same time propose public policies that can help these people face up to these problems.

Session D Transnational feminism, global women's movements, and social justice

Organiser and Chair

Sylvanna FALCON, University of California, United States, smfalcon@ucsc.edu

Women's movements from around the world have utilized human rights discourses and international laws to raise awareness about injustice and abuses aimed at women and their communities. As such, feminists have often engaged with human rights in a transnational capacity – with attention to both local and global dynamics and realities.

This session invites papers, which address how feminists and women's movements have responded to increasing inequalities and injustice in both national and cross-national contexts. In particular, this session seeks to introduce research, which offers innovative ways that feminist advocates, activists, and movements invoke human rights and/or highlight the challenges of using human rights strategies in their work. We invite papers that interpret feminism in the broadest sense possible, with issues ranging from anti-imperialism, anti-racism, and anti-militarism, to indigenous sovereignty and self-determination, sexual rights, democratization, and social, economic, and cultural rights.

Session E Human rights and the well being of non-citizens: New boundaries of citizenship and belonging

Organiser and Chair

Claudia TAZREITER, University New South Wales, Australia, c.tazreiter@unsw.edu.au

While rights and entitlements have long been understood as attached to membership in the territorial nation-state, human rights values prioritize the fulfillment of rights internationally. This tension presents a conundrum where on the one hand, citizenship is increasingly being theorized as cosmopolitan and justice imagined as global, while on the other, 'actually existing' rights fulfillment privileges the continuation of injustice through the 'fate of birth' (Carens 2010). This injustice is profound in the circumstances that face non-citizens such as temporary, or illegalized migrant workers, asylum seekers and trafficked persons. Growing global inequalities and the re-bordering and re-securitizing of the territorial state in the new millennium has resulted in a diminishing of rights and entitlements for non-citizens rather than a flourishing of the benefits of 'cosmopolitan' law and values.

This panel welcomes papers that address the needs of non-citizens either through focused empirical work that explore case studies, or that offer theoretical insights. We invite papers that address any aspect of citizenship and belonging related to non-citizens' human rights.

Session F Human rights, the search for dignity and the oppression of the masses

Organiser and Chair

Edward SIEH, Lasell College, United States, esieh@lasell.edu

The foundation of human rights is often placed within the context of human dignity. With this in mind this session welcomes papers that discuss human rights, human dignity and social justice within the context of institutionalized torture, violence, mutilation, humiliation, disenfranchisement, alienation, oppression, disempowerment, punishment, but also racism, sexism, capitalism, disempowerment, and militarism, and lastly, the neoliberal concentration of wealth and privatization of food, water, health care, transportation, public safety and housing etc. The hope is that the papers will discuss the issues involved and provide some analysis understanding of how we might move forward in the 21st century

Session G Risk, human rights and global justice

Joint session of TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice [host committee] and TG04 Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

Session H TG03 Business Meeting

Call for Papers 2

LABOR, DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL CAPITAL, XXXVI Annual Conference On The Political Economy Of The World System, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, April 19-21, 2012

Crisis and stagnation, growth and industrialization; upward mobility among the hierarchy of nations and growing inequality within nations: all these are part of the world scene. In the core nations of the world system laborers and the labor movement were able to attain a modicum of social inclusion during the middle of the 20th Century. Can this be regained or duplicated on a world scale? In the course of the 19th and Twentieth Centuries, again among the rich countries, many previously excluded or marginalized groups obtained both the formal franchise and the promise of social inclusion. Under the institutional conditions of global capitalism can democratic aspirations once again be realized? This conference will focus on Labor and Democracy for the coming era. It includes the following subthemes:

1. The Race to the Bottom: Labor, Environmental and Social standards in the global market. What is the evidence for geographical/political shift of investments from higher wage/ social standards jurisdictions to lower ones? What are the consequences? What should be done?
2. The Fate of the “Welfare State.” In the Era of Neoliberalism and Globalised Capital can high wage, high benefit social regimes survive? Long term trends seem to indicate rising inequality and erosion of social benefits even among the more generous of the welfare capitalist nations. Is this temporary or reversible? Can workers in peripheral social formations enjoy the fruits of growth under conditions of neoliberal competition? What can be learned from the Chinese case?
3. Democracy for Whom? Global Governance and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund have been subject to long term criticism as agents for the rich in the rich countries. But now they claim to have reformed. Have they changed, and if so how? Are the IFIs a skeleton of world

governance? If so, are the Enlightenment ideals of republican and democratic government relevant to the global future? If not, how are they to be governed and by whom?

4. Formal/ informal: globalization, gender, and livelihood strategies. The flows of people from countryside to city or from poor or crisis regions to richer or growing regions highlight the challenges individuals, families, and communities face as they are incorporated into the global wage worker economy. How are formal and informal economies being (re)integrated in Northern and Southern contexts through migrations and livelihood strategies among the poor and disenfranchised? How are marginalized or subordinated groups, such as workers, women, and migrants, experiencing the global market and how are the forces of global capitalism supporting or neglecting these groups in new (or old) ways?

Submissions should be sent to pewsconference36@clarku.edu. Abstracts of 250 words on the general theme or on one of the specific subthemes, including full contact information for all authors should be sent by December 23, 2011. Accepted papers will be considered for a planned edited volume. Send other inquiries to Robert J.S. Ross (rjsross@clarku.edu). The Conference will be hosted at historic Clark University in Worcester, MA.

Call for Papers 3

RESTRUCTURING REFUGE AND SETTLEMENT: RESPONDING TO THE GLOBAL DYNAMICS OF DISPLACEMENT

Conference organized by The Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS)

**Hosted by Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS)
York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, May 16-18, 2012**

Globalization has transformed traditional patterns of human mobility. Demographic, economic, social, political and environmental developments accelerate the pace of change. States pursue increasingly selective policies with a view to maximizing economic benefits of immigration. They tend to favour not only highly skilled migrants, but also a highly flexible work force. In recent years, the number of temporary foreign workers admitted to Canada has more than doubled. A similar trend can be observed in other countries. Different legal and administrative categories of temporary migrants emerge with different rights and entitlements. Some of them, especially circular, domestic and seasonal temporary workers occupy low-wage, low-status jobs with poor labour standards and are more likely to suffer discrimination in respect to employment. Low-skilled temporary migrants often have restricted access to citizenship in the host country and are at risk of falling into irregular status. The precarious situation in which many migrants and their family members find themselves is challenging for settlement policies. There is an urgent need to restructure these policies and to promote comprehensive integration programmes in order to prevent legal, economic and social marginalization of migrants. Refuge is another area which is deeply affected by the global dynamics of displacement. In the current context of economic uncertainty, concerns about terrorism and security, and tightened border controls, the condition of IDPs, stateless persons, irregular migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees deteriorates. Their access to protection is restricted. The strengthening of State control over forced migrants

through harsher immigration measures transforms the logic of domestic structures and public policies. It lowers protection standards and increases the vulnerability of forced migrants.

The 2012 CARFMS Conference will bring together researchers, policymakers, displaced persons and advocates from diverse disciplinary and regional backgrounds to discuss the issue of restructuring refuge and settlement with a view to better understanding how migration policies, processes and structures responds to the global dynamics of displacement. We invite participants from a wide range of perspectives to explore the practical, experiential, policy-oriented, legal and theoretical questions raised by refuge and settlement at the local, national, regional and international levels. The conference will feature keynote and plenary speeches from leaders in the field, and we welcome proposals for individual papers and organized panels structured around the following broad subthemes:

Restructuring settlement: Local, national, comparative and international issues and concerns
States' utilitarian approach towards migration challenges the balance between the objective of economic development, on the one hand, and integration and equal treatment of migrants, on the other. Recent changes in the selection of migrant workers have negative consequences on social cohesion. Settlement, adaptation and integration policies play an important role at local, national and international levels to address this situation and prevent exclusion: What are the strengths and the weaknesses of settlement policies? How should these policies be adapted to meet the needs of increasing numbers of temporary workers? How can actors promote a process of integration that fosters social cohesion? What is the role played by local and national authorities, employers and members of civil society? How to ensure coherence and coordination between various actors dealing with issues such as health, education, social welfare, employment and law enforcement? What are particular legal, social, economic needs of different groups of migrants? How does gender, age, ability, race and other factors affect settlement? What are the best settlement practices?

Restructuring refuge: Local, national, comparative and international issues and concerns
The recent reform of the Canadian asylum system aims at accelerating the refugee status determination process and reducing the number of asylum claims by making the system less attractive. In North America, the United States and Canada cooperate to stem "unwanted" migration. Similar developments can be observed in other parts of the world. Critical analysis of recent trends and developments contributes to a better understanding of current challenges: How do local, regional and international mechanisms and logics transform political and media discourse, norms, policies and practices related to forced migrants? What are the changes in institutional and procedural arrangements to deal with refugee and asylum claims? How do these changes affect protection norms and policies at the local, national and international level? How do international and local actors, institutions and agencies promote the legal, economic and social inclusion of forced migrants?

Restructuring settlement and refuge: New approaches and theories
Innovative approaches and theories developed within traditional disciplines or in interdisciplinary lines foster knowledge on current norms, policies and practices linked to questions of settlement and refuge. New theoretical, conceptual, methodological issues from diverse critical and institutional perspectives highlight these questions, including: the link between refuge and security in an era of globalization; the impact of restrictive regulation of the freedom of movement of forced migrants; the need to redefine policies of resettlement, adaptation, and integration of immigrants and refugees in a context of changing migration figures; the adaptation of settlement policies to promote social inclusion of low-skilled temporary workers, asylum seekers and irregular migrants; settlement and citizenship.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Individuals wishing to present a paper at the conference must submit a 250-word abstract and 100-word biography by December 30, 2011. The conference organizers welcome submissions of both individual papers and proposals for panels.

Please submit your abstract via the conference website: <http://carfmsconference.yorku.ca>. For more information, please contact Michele Millard at mmillard@yorku.ca

Member's Publications and Announcements

Publication

From Alice M Nah

My forthcoming article, "Legitimising Violence: The Impact of Public 'Crackdowns' on Migrant Workers and Refugees in Malaysia" will be published in the *Australian Journal of Human Rights*, 17(2).

ABSTRACT: This article examines the vulnerability to violence and human rights abuses that migrant workers and refugees experience as a result of the use of amnesty exercises and public 'crackdowns' to curtail irregular migration in Malaysia. Crackdowns are a highly visible technique of control and discipline that involves the publicised arrest, detention, imprisonment, punishment (including whipping) and deportation of migrants. Malaysia's laws, policies and practices concerning irregular migrants have become increasingly punitive and restrictive over the past three decades. Discriminatory discourses concerning 'illegal immigrants' have been coupled with practices that objectify and punish migrants. Refugees suffer from these immigration operations because they are insufficiently differentiated from irregular migrants. Despite the spiralling cycle of violence, crackdowns continue to fail in their primary objective: to reduce the number of irregular migrants in Malaysia. This, I argue, stems from an over-emphasis on the 'deviant migrant' as the object of state surveillance and discipline, with insufficient attention to the faults in the immigration control regime that contribute to irregular migration.

KEYWORDS: Migrants, refugees, Malaysia, violence, vulnerability, immigration

From Akbar Valdbigi

My upcoming article titled as "Civic Activism, Social Capital & Social Media in the Modern MENA Region" will be published in the *Central European Journal of International and Security Studies* Issue 5 Volume 3.

ABSTRACT: The unfolding unrest in the Middle East opened up new debates on the relationship between social capital and civil society. This work has a threefold focus: first, it explores how the existing stock of social capital spurred on the contemporary civic activities in the search of constructing stable democracies across the Middle East; second, it examines how civic movements in this region can contribute to increasing the current deficit of social capital;

and third, it analyses the implications of the deployment of social media tools in the recent uprisings. This work suggests that although the Middle Eastern states have always been subject to severe violence and suppressive political systems, civil society organisations and the stock of social capital has been steadily rising.

KEYWORDS: social capital, civil society, the Middle East, democracy, uprising, social media, internetworked social movements

Announcement

From Dr. K. Raja Mohan Rao

Call for Collaborative Research in the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy

The Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy has come into existence in Bharathidasan University during the academic year 2008-09. The Centre has been conceptualized as a rallying point, as well as, a source of inspiration for all the inter-related issues concerning Dalits, Minorities, and other marginalized and socially excluded sections of the Population. The major concern of this academic body will be to analyse the societal lapses faced by the socially excluded. Social exclusion reflects the mindset that needs a conceptual change to move those marginalized groups from isolation into the mainstream of life. The task of the Centre gains greater relevance in the light of the present economic growth witnessed which demands immediate attention, to get them out of their untold misery and tragic sufferings. The Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy aims at liberating the marginalized and creating an egalitarian society to make every Indian proud of himself and his Country. In view of this, the Centre aims at generating academic debates and discussions, formulating them in a non-partisan and plural manner within a framework of egalitarian social solidarity as an ideal.

For more information, please visit <http://www.bdu.ac.in/centers/csseip/csseipindex.htm>

Those who are interested to join us for collaborative research in the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy may contact the Director for further details.

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Visit the TG03 web site:
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/tg03.htm>

MEMBERSHIP dues are USD 20 (USD 10 Discount) for a four-year period: to join, visit the ISA web site:
<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>

Submit Your Announcements

Please send me news about your publications, job opportunities, forthcoming conferences, and other events you would like to share, Eunna Lee-Gong: eunna.leegong@gmail.com