

Call for Papers
International
Online Conference

After Globalization
The Future
of World Society

World Society Foundation
Zurich, Switzerland
August 25–26, 2022

Deadline for Abstract
Submission
October 30, 2021

50 Years World
Society Research

40 Years World
Society Foundation

After decades of apparently linear and perpetual rise of global integration and interdependence, more and more observers of world society see an increasing number of signals indicating that a trend of deglobalization is underway. Some scholars see a military deglobalization at work, while other focus on processes of financial and monetary deglobalization. Some researcher emphasize normative and cultural aspects of deglobalization, like value conflicts and clashes, while others interpret deglobalization mainly as a reconfiguration of global commodity and value chains, particularly in, but not limited to, the context of United States-China “decoupling” and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

From a longer-term historical perspective, we observe long waves of global integration and disintegration: phases of accelerated globalization, like the periods before 1914 and after 1989, are alternating with phases of deglobalization, such as the inter-war period with rising national protectionism, or the early 21st century in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis of 2008, which has been characterized by a return of economic and political nationalism, populism, and geopolitical rivalry. Are we currently witnessing just another globalization/deglobalization cycle or are we entering a new “after globalization” era?

The World Society Foundation (WSF), established in 1982 in Zurich, Switzerland, is celebrating its 40th anniversary of its activity as “world observatory” supporting social sciences scholars and scientific research all over the world, but particular those from the Global South, to investigate into the various processes of global integration and disintegration, (re)structuring and (re)configuration.

“World society is something which is, at the same time, highly relevant and widely ignored. (...) I postulate that world society is as it is because it is widely ignored (...) world society is, in fact, a self-reproducing structure of ignorance and knowledge.” (Peter Heintz, founder of the World Society Foundation, 1980).¹

With this call for papers the World Society Foundation invites theoretical and empirical contributions on the ongoing transformative processes (re)shaping the future of world society.

1 Heintz, Peter, 1980. “The Study of World Society: Some Reasons Pro and Contra,” pp. 97–100 in: Hans-Henrik Holm and Erik Rudeng (eds.): *Social Science – For What? Festschrift for Johan Galtung*. Oslo: Norwegian University Press.

Issues that may be addressed by papers include (but are not limited to)

Deglobalization, fragmentation or reconfiguration of world society: What are the past, present, and future trends and structural transformations of global economic, political, societal, and cultural order?

Re-examining and (re)theorizing the concept of world society in the context of deglobalization: What are the conceptual origins, theoretical developments, usefulness and utilization of the concept of world society? How the concept of world society as an analytical tool in a context of “after globalization” may be further developed?

Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the European periphery as part and driver of a deglobalizing world society: Are we witnessing a regional fragmentation or a regional reconfiguration of world society? How does the rise of China and Asia and the new silk road dynamics transform the regional landscape of world society?

Deglobalization and digitalization of world society: How is digitalization related to (de)globalization? What role does the digital divide between North and South, core and periphery, play?

Deglobalization and democracy in retreat: How does deglobalization impact on democracy? Does rising isolationism, nationalism and populism undermine democracy and democratic movements in the global North and the global South, or does it increase individual autonomy and the political capacity to act?

World cultural de-standardization, (sub)cultural differentiation, and resistance: Do we observe a cultural segmentation and differentiation of world society? What forms and dynamics of cultural resistance are emerging?

Deglobalization and ecological transformation of world society: How do processes of deglobalization impact on ecological transformation and the capabilities of mitigating climate change?

Submission procedure

Please submit a 500 word abstract in English until **October 30, 2021** (CET) to worldsociety2022@soziologie.uzh.ch. The abstract should include the title of the paper, all author(s) names and affiliations as well as contact information. It should contain clear information on the research methods, data sources and analytical tools to be used. Please note that the organizers are seeking original contributions. Papers that have already been published or submitted for publication will not be accepted. Authors will be notified before November 30, 2021 of paper proposal acceptance. Successful applicants are invited to elaborate their proposals into full papers and to participate in the 2022 World Society Foundation Award for Research Papers program.

World Society Foundation
Award for Research Papers

Successful applicants of abstract proposals will be automatically selected to participate with their paper in the 2022 program of the World Society Foundation Award for Research Papers. The selected authors are invited to submit a full paper (25–30 pages, but no more than 8000 words) in English by **May 1, 2022** (CET) to worldsociety2022@soziologie.uzh.ch. Authors will be notified by June 1, 2022 of full paper acceptance/rejection. Authors of accepted papers are expected to present their work at the 2022 Online Conference (August 25–26, 2022). Each author will receive a paper and publication fee of \$1000. The authors of the most outstanding papers will become candidates for the Foundation's 2022 Award. Notification of selected Award papers will be given by June 15, 2022. The Award, with a prize of US \$10'000, will be presented at the WSF 40th anniversary celebration event of August 26, 2022. The paper of the Award winner is expected to be published in the planned conference volume.

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Authors' webinar

Authors of accepted abstract proposals will have the opportunity to participate in a half-day authors' information and discussion online workshop. This webinar will take place in February 2022.

Online conference

The online conference will take place on August 25–26, 2022. The authors of accepted papers are expected to present their paper at this conference.

Celebration event

A mixed on-site/online celebration event will take place in Zurich, Switzerland, in the evening of August 26, 2022. Keynote addresses will be given and the 2022 WSF Award winner will be presented.

Publication

The outcome of the conference and the 2022 WSF Award program is a joint publication in the form of an edited volume that is based on the papers presented at the online conference. The final version of the papers for the book chapters is due by October 1, 2022.

Paper and publication fee

Each author of an accepted full paper will receive a paper and publication fee of \$1000 (one single fee per paper). This paper fee will be paid in two installments: the first installment will be provided after the online conference of August 25–26, 2022, the second installment once the paper has been finalized and accepted for publication.

Important dates
and deadlines

Abstract submission: **October 30, 2021**
Notification of acceptance/rejection of
abstracts: **November 30, 2021**
Authors' webinar: February 2022
Full paper submission: **May 1, 2022**
Notification of acceptance / rejection of full paper: June 1, 2022
Notification of Award candidates: June 15, 2022
Online Conference: **August 25–26, 2022**
Celebration event: August 26, 2022
Final version of book chapter: due by October 1, 2022

Organizing committee

Hans-Peter Meier (World Society Foundation Zurich), Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel and World Society Foundation Zurich), Patrick Ziltener (University of Zurich).

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For more information on the conference and for updates, please check at: www.worldsociety.ch