

XX ISA World Congress of Sociology



Resurgent Authoritarianism:
*Sociology of New Entanglements of
Religions, Politics, and Economies*

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Author Meets Critics

The Program Committee in cooperation with the Research Committees, Working Groups, Thematic Groups and National Associations selected 6 authors who will present their books in Author Meets Critics sessions.

Two parallel sessions will be held at 17:30-19:20 for 3 days, Monday through Wednesday, June 26-30, 2023.

Critical Engagement with Public Sociology: A Perspective from the Global South **edited by Andries Bezuidenhout, Sonwabile Mnwana, Karl Von Holdt**

The idea of public sociology in its global form was inspired by sociological practice in South Africa, conceptualised as ‘critical engagement’, when the US sociologist Michael Burawoy visited South Africa in the 1990s. This volume explores the trajectory of ‘critical engagement’ before and after Burawoy’s visit, comparing this to the trajectory of ‘public sociology’, which was forged in the very different context of US sociology. Contributors to the edited volume reflect on four decades of dialogue and concept formation between the dominant sociology of the North and the emergent sociology of the South over a 40-year period. They use this to interrogate deeply the contradictions, challenges, and profound contribution of social science research to popular struggle – and the equally profound contribution of popular struggles to the formation of new sociological knowledge. Authors located in South Africa wrote the majority of the chapters, but the book also includes contributions from Chile and Turkey as points of comparison across the global South. The book engages historically and conceptually with critical engagement as an evolving practice, as well as more recent research practices in and around the Society, Work and Politics Institute (SWOP) in Johannesburg over the past decade in order to deepen our understanding of the methodologies and processes of knowledge formation that characterise critically engaged research.

The Gift Paradigm: A Short Introduction to the Anti-Utilitarian Movement in the Social Sciences by Alain Caillé

The book attempts to show in a very few words the full scope of the gift paradigm, a way of looking at and analyzing social relations according to the place that gift occupies in them. This gift paradigm has been elaborated for forty years by the Revue du MAUSS. Its name, MAUSS, has a double meaning. As an anti-utilitarian movement in social science, it is a way of criticizing economist approaches to society. It is also a tribute to Marcel Mauss, nephew and intellectual heir of Emile Durkheim, and himself the author in 1925 of the Essay on the Gift, which is considered by La Revue du MAUSS to be the most important book in the history of the social sciences, and perhaps the most important for moral and political philosophy.

Among many results of this approach, the discovery that primary sociality is still governed today by what Mauss named the triple obligation to give, receive and return. And a tetralogical theory of action which helps to overcome both RAT and variegated holisms. From the paradigm of the gift it is also possible to build a political philosophy likely to overcome neoliberalism. This political philosophy has a name: convivialism.

Aesthetico-Cultural Cosmopolitanism and French Youth: The Taste of the World by Vincenzo Cicchelli and Sylvie Octobre

The globalization of cultural industries and the growing circulation of cultural products, facilitated by the rise of digital technologies and social networks, are major factors contributing to the internationalization of youth cultural repertoires and consumption patterns. The circulation of cultural contents and global icons favors the shaping and reshaping of the imaginaries of the world. Nowadays, the first point of contact that young individuals have with a foreign culture most frequently occurs through TV shows, movies or music, the internet, and social media. The concept of the cosmopolitan amateur can thus be harnessed to describe both the connections produced by knowledge and the feelings expressed through taste preferences that help young people to situate themselves within the global cultural mosaic and become more aware of their scales of belonging.

Aesthetico-cultural cosmopolitan amateurism differs from previous forms of amateurism, insofar as it puts forward the resources provided by cultural contents to connect oneself to the world rather than the intrinsic qualities of the artworks. Hence, it implies a specific yet fleeting form of engagement in cultural contexts that are not exclusively national, and which are not strictly defined by national education systems. The cosmopolitan amateur thus appears as a central figure in youth cultural consumption in a global world. This presentation highlights the ways in which cosmopolitan amateurs engage with the cultural good and global icons and produce imaginaries of the world and is based on research conducted in France among young people aged 18 to 29 (Cicchelli and Octobre, 2018).

***After the Arab Uprisings: Progress and Stagnation in the Middle East and North Africa* by Shamiran Mako and Valentine M. Moghadam**

After the Arab Uprisings tackles key questions at the heart of socioeconomics scholarship: Why were only some Arab mass social protests of 2011 accompanied by relatively quick and nonviolent outcomes in the direction of regime change, democracy, and social transformation? Why was a democratic transition limited to Tunisia? Why did region-wide democratization not occur?

The book deals with the seven countries that were most affected by the Arab uprisings – Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain, Libya, Syria, Yemen – and offers an explanatory framework of four variables to discuss the very divergent outcomes, from the procedural democratic bargains and transition in Tunisia to the internationalized civil conflicts in Libya, Syria, and Yemen. Mako and Moghadam examine the state and political institutions, civil society, women’s status and movements, and the nature of international influences. Their framework of these momentous events takes into account domestic and geopolitical factors and forces, and they show how the four explanatory variables interacted to account for both causes and outcomes and extend the analysis to the present day.

In examining the travails of Tunisia’s democratic transition, Mako and Moghadam compare “third-wave” and “fourth-wave” democracy waves, arguing that in addition to a modern and vigilant civil society and strong feminine presence in both civil society and political society, a sustained democratization requires a supportive global environment. Broadening spatial and temporal scales, the analysis of the Arab uprisings and their aftermath pays attention to factors largely neglected in previous accounts. The book identifies governments, political parties, feminist organizations and international organizations as key actors and agents influencing the direction and outcome of each country’s uprising. This theoretically and empirically rich account provides a holistic and cross-disciplinary approach to understanding social movements, democratization, and contentious politics.

***Diaspora as Translation and Decolonisation* by Ipek Demir**

Diaspora is too often understood and examined as emerging out of ethno-political struggles within nation-states and told from a perspective of push factors. Diaspora research has become too tightly hemmed into the history, sources, and understandings of the nation-state. It is often examined as a case study without necessarily informing how the case study expands or challenges existing conceptualisations of diaspora, or without reference to wider social, political, and global debates and orders of our times. This has brought limitations to diaspora research as it has severed the links between empire and diaspora on the one hand, and the transnational dimensions of diaspora on the other. Consequently, the spatial and temporal dimensions of diaspora research are curtailed and the potential of diaspora as an analytical tool is not always realised. Approaches which focus on hybridity have brought their own limitations, as they tend to focus on the ‘tyranny of in-betweenness’ rather than, for example, how diasporas intervene and challenge coloniality in the new home. The book aims to contribute to diaspora theorising by conceptualising diaspora as translation and decolonisation. It

seeks to expand diaspora conceptualisations spatially and temporally by weaving translation and decolonisation into examinations of diaspora, and through empirical examples.

The book also argues that anti-immigration sentiments and xenophobia in the Global North are closely bound up with, if not at times used as a proxy for showing discomfort and resentment of settled diasporas of colour in the Global North who have close connections with the metropole due to empire, and most importantly against their demands for equality. Worries about recent migrations to the Global North are closely entangled with anxieties about existing diasporas of colour. Discourses of ‘anti-multiculturalism’, ‘the left-behind’, the ‘traditional’ working class have become convenient codes for providing an armoury for excessive and exclusive nationalism, majoritarianism, and for doing White identity politics without the need to mention colour. As such the book connects discourses which unite concerns about the recent so called ‘unprecedented’ migrations to the Global North, and existing diasporas of colour and their demands for equality.

As such, the book not only reconsiders diaspora, a central theme of sociology, it is also a good fit with the conference theme, uncovering historical and spatial entanglements of diasporas in the global world and populist and xenophobic reactions to them.

***Refuge beyond Reach: How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum Seekers* by David Scott FitzGerald**

The core of the asylum regime is the principle of non-refoulement that prohibits governments from sending refugees back to their persecutors. Governments attempt to evade this legal obligation by manipulating territoriality. A remote-control strategy of “extra-territorialization” pushes border control hundreds of kilometers beyond the state’s territory. Simultaneously, states restrict access to asylum and other rights enjoyed by virtue of presence on a state’s territory, by making micro-distinctions down to the meter at the border line in a process of “hyper-territorialization.” *Refuge beyond Reach* analyzes remote controls since the 1930s in Palestine, North America, Europe, and Australia to identify the origins of controls, explain how they work together as a system, and establish the conditions that enable or constrain them in practice.