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# RC 09 Social Transformations and the Sociology of Development

## Table of Contents

- 1    Remarks from the RC09  
     Co-President, Ulrike  
     Schuerkens
- 3    De-Globalization? (Not so  
     fast) and the Future of  
     Sociology, by Habib  
     Haque Khondker
- 8    RC09 Sessions in ISA  
     World Congress,  
     Toronto, Canada
- 16   RC09 Member  
     Publications and Grants

## Remarks from the RC 09 Co-President, Ulrike Schuerkens

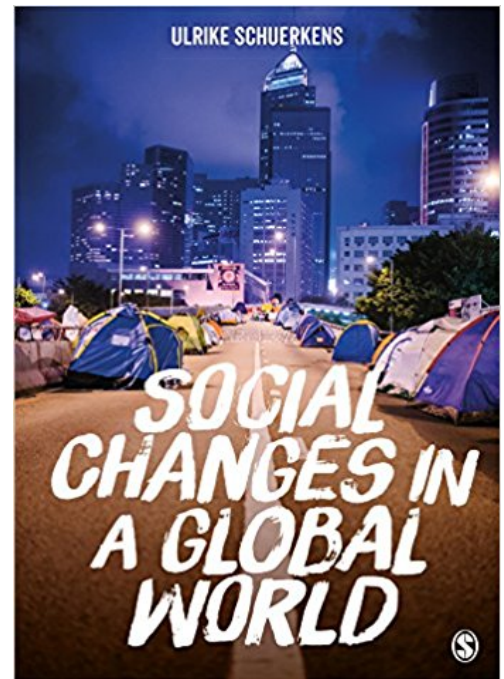
Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank Zophia for the preparation of her first RC 09 Newsletter. Gladly, she received very interesting information from you, the members on recent publications and research projects. This Newsletter also includes the session abstracts for the RC 09 sessions at the next World Congress in Toronto in July 2018. As you can see, we could build a very broad programme so that you should find occasions for bringing in your research interests and research projects to be presented in Toronto. **We strongly encourage you to submit abstracts to the different thematic sessions.** If your research topic is not covered by these various sessions, we invite you to submit your abstract to the session chaired by Samuel Cohn. In this session, we will reunite **new research topics** that are not covered by the other fields of ***Social Transformations and the Sociology of Development***.

Habib Khondker has moreover prepared a very promising short article for this Newsletter on some aspects of globalization. I would also like to add some ideas on the future of globalization.

As you know, I have just published a new book on ***Social Changes in a Global World*** (Sage).

According to my knowledge on socioeconomic data, globalization has brought with it growth and wellbeing in many countries. However, inside the countries, this image is different. Many economic sectors and consumers have seen the beneficial aspects of globalization while certain groups have been losers. Unfortunately, states that have to take care of the socioeconomic difficulties of their populations have not yet adapted their social policies to these new developments. Redistributive measures have not yet been introduced for these groups that have become marginalized by economic processes. These groups are thus unsatisfied and react against globalization and its negative consequences. This has meant *Brexit* in the UK and in the US, the building of a government where the financial elite of the country is charged with social policies that may mean the end of Obamacare, a change in climate policy, a change in immigration rules, and an argument is heard, such as “America first”.



Important processes against globalization have thus begun even if in the long run the costs of a reduced globalization mean that the global economy and that of individual countries would shrink so that finally all countries would pay a high price, a price that would even be higher for the poor.

I am arguing that we need a new discussion on the content of globalization and a better inclusion of marginalized groups in the North and the South. Globalization cannot only become an advantage for cosmopolitan elites. The gains have to be redistributed to poorer groups who protest and ask for a new discussion on social policies. Most often, these groups don't know adequately facts and data on globalization so that unspecified fears create possibilities for right-wing opposition parties to win elections.

Fortunately, parts of the political elites are accustomed to coordinated reactions in front of this crisis of globalization. As sociologists, we have to support these measures with adequate arguments and data so that a visionary leadership can realize socio-political changes. The recent G7 has shown that new heads of States find it hard to act as usual. We may have arrived at an historical moment where new political measures have to be found, where old-fashioned party thinking has to be readapted, where economic elites have to admit that new socio-political measures are asked for. Think tanks, civil society, and business have to reconsider their critical thinking on globalization. An end of the globalization that we have realized would mean negative influences on employment, the economy, and the wellbeing of populations. Right-wing parties that argue against globalization will create negative outcomes in economic and social sectors. The results would not be limited to single nation-states but would have consequences on more and more parts of the world. The poorest would probably be those who suffer most. Thus, we need adaptive measures that may be painful for some groups. However, the target would be an improved globalization that includes marginalized groups. The material and normative value of globalization has thus to be re-evaluated so that an improved functioning of its processes will become possible.

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Last but not least, Habib and myself would encourage you to react to these short texts on the future of globalization. Please, send us your comments that we can publish in the next RC 09 Newsletter.

I wish all of you a pleasant summer time and some nice relaxing weeks before the next academic year will start in September 2017.

With my best wishes,

Ulrike Schuerkens

*Co-chair RC 09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development*

**University Rennes 2, LiRIS EA 7481, France**



## **De-Globalization? (Not so fast!) and the future of Global Sociology**

Habibul Haque Khondker  
Zayed University, Abu Dhabi

The main arguments of this paper can be presented in the form of two thesis statements to be followed by a counter-thesis, which will lead to the central argument of the paper.

The first thesis statement:

Globalization, apparently, is in decline. Recent events have led some commentators to use a term deglobalization that Frank Lechner used in another context in the 1990s. Some of the major events of 2016 led to a growing skepticism about the future of globalization and some commentators even raised the possibility of the end of globalization. The January / February 2017 issue of the Foreign Affairs has several articles on deglobalization. The ordeal of Brexit, that is the exit of Britain from the European Union stoking old-fashioned nationalism and the election of Mr. Donald Trump, a Real Estate billionaire and a part-time reality show host as the President of the United States of America and the rise of the discourse of economic nationalism reinforced the nationalist, anti-refugee sentiments in Europe. Hence, our task is to examine if the deglobalization hypothesis is true or false; and if true/false binary is too strong; is deglobalization plausible or implausible?

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The second thesis statement:

A number of globalization theorists have been arguing for quite some time that the traditional basis of sociology, the study of society, is losing its salience in an increasingly globalized world. Their main thesis is that as scientific discipline sociology has to delink with its nationalist roots and reinvent itself as a global field of inquiry. Some writers, especially, Roland Robertson argued that sociology as a field of inquiry emerged as a global social science. He uses the works of the classical sociologists broadly to support his argument. The main focus of the sociological contributions of Marx, Weber, Simmel and Durkheim were transnational or global. Even if one is not convinced by his arguments, the first issue of The British Journal of Sociology of 2000 carried a number of important articles authored by Ulrich Beck, Goran Therborn and others that made a case for global sociology or the inadequacy of embedding sociology to the nation state.

**If de-globalization is the future,  
shouldn't sociology anchor itself  
to a renewed national project?**

Now the key question is: if the world is experiencing a so-called deglobalization process how is that compatible with the globalization of sociology. If de-globalization is the future, shouldn't sociology anchor itself to a renewed national project?

The main argument of this paper is to make a case that the discussion of the “end of globalization” or, “de-globalization” is pre-matured. Social scientists who were carried away by the notion of “borderless world” are somewhat dismayed by these supposedly anti-globalization developments, but sociologists who analyzed globalization in a more nuanced way as a process that is also producing “gated communities” and walled states (Turner and Khondker, 2010) were not surprised at the contradictory processes of globalization. The present paper examines the prospects of a globalized sociology and social sciences in the face of a complex, contradictory and irreversible process of globalization.

For some time now, discerning sociologists are using the term globalization in the plural, that is, globalizations. The main journal on globalization is called Globalizations. It is important to argue that there are many definitions and understandings of globalization, hence the plural. To make life simpler, I would reduce the variety of conceptualizations of globalization into two types:

The “thin” theory of globalization and the “thick” theory of globalization, alternately one can think of an economic theory of globalization as the “thin” theory and the sociological theory of globalization as the “thick” theory of globalization by using Geertz’s notions of a thin and thick description.

The thin theory is formalistic and elegant; the thick theory is messy and sometimes opaque.

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The thin theory of globalization:

As mentioned earlier, the thin theory is mainly the economic theory of globalization where globalization is understood as increasing and intense economic and trade links by which the world becomes a market place. Here, of course, the pro-globalization economists find many virtues of an integrated world-embracing economy. In recent decades, countries that have been plugged into the world market by trade linkages exporting all kinds of industrial and consumer goods (as in the case of China); software and data processing (as in the case of India) or garments and migrant labor (as in the case of Bangladesh) have benefitted from their linkages with the capitalist world. International aid has been replaced by international trade as a means for the economic development of India and Bangladesh.

In the case of China, they have abandoned an autonomous, state-guided development plan to a market-driven, export-oriented development strategy, which brought economic success to Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea earlier. If one is committed to the thin theory of globalization, Trumpism or a resurrected economic nationalism poses a threat. However, once the dust of the electoral fervor settles, the new leadership will find that reversing the trade globalization and related deglobalization is easier said than done.

It is quite ironical that once, Samir Amin and other Marxist economists were raising the demand for de-linking, presently, the slogan of de-linking is coming from the defenders of capitalism. A self-reliant America is economically not viable. Should Americans start stitching their own clothes? Defying Adam Smith's logic and David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage in favor of Gandhi's self-reliance is simply anachronistic.

**A careful economic analysis today cannot ignore the political – both national and international – developments.**

The thin theory of economic globalization is inadequate even as an economic theory and fails to account for the consequences of economic globalization. A careful economic analysis today cannot ignore the political – both national and international – developments. The consequences of economic globalization have been mixed. In terms of economic growth as indicated above a number of countries have benefitted. Some of the countries in Africa have grown rapidly, yet conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa remain dismal. Globally speaking, while the number of people living under the extreme poverty line reduced dramatically—from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 800 million in 2013—the total number of extremely poor people living in fragile states rose over the same period. Although income and wealth inequality remains a worldwide problem, extreme poverty remains concentrated in the fragile states.

The prospect for development is dependent not just on the broader, global economic situation, the capacity of the state and the performance of the state will continue to play a role. Another important point worth mentioning is that Asia is likely to be the center of economic gravity along with North America and the other OECD countries.



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Three of the ten leading economies in gross national income are in Asia, which includes China as number two and Japan as number three, according to the World Bank data.<sup>1</sup> The Asian countries with a large population have posted high GDP growth rate in the recent years. China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Vietnam have posted around or over 6% growth rate in the last two decades.<sup>2</sup>

## **While blinded by the dazzle of the “Asian Miracle”, the remarkable but gradual transformation in China and India was neglected.**

East and Southeast Asian regions have seen spectacular economic development under soft authoritarian political systems that led to high growth economies, since the late 1970s. The West Asia – popularly known as the Middle East – saw spectacular economic growth in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries thanks to rising prices of fossil fuels that led to a dramatic change in social indicators whereas rest of that region remains impoverished. This paper seeks to examine the regional and sub-regional specificities in the context of the overarching global and entangled modernity. In the late 1980s when East and Southeast Asian economies were undergoing rapid economic growth and social modernization defying the predictions of the economists and development experts, who labeled these countries namely, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore as "Asian Tigers". While blinded by the dazzle of the “Asian Miracle”, the remarkable but gradual transformation in China and India was neglected. Now while the world attention is riveted on India and China, significant social changes in West Asia remain outside the radar.

Developments in the Peoples Republic of China were seen through the prisms of Cold War ideology, socialist growth was not recognized, let alone appreciated in a world due to ideological blinders. Yet, remarkable social modernization took place in China in terms of basic literacy, health care, schooling and housing and infrastructure that paved the way for the miracle growth in the post-Mao period in the 1980s. India, too, often touted as having the so-called Hindu growth rate in the 1970s and 1980s experienced slow but steady growth accompanied by a Green revolution in agriculture and since 1980s a pro-business stance of the government (Rodrik and Subramanian, 2004). The growth was lop-sided and transformation slow, a large number of graduates left engineers, scientists unemployed who unable to find employment in their own country took the route of overseas employment in effect created a potential for a subsequent back-office status of India in the 1990s and in the first decade of the 21st century. The Indian experiment of democracy with development resulted in sluggish economic growth yet it laid the basis of a long-term political stability. China despite predictions of many western analysts that political unrest and instability will follow a period of economic growth mainly because of the absence of liberal democracy has remained politically stable. In fact, China's focus on infrastructure development and economic growth has paid off. China has led the way in presenting a model of good governance as opposed to electoral and liberal democracy. China is not even an illiberal democracy in the vein of Farid Zakaria. As China continues to find friends and partners in Africa and the Middle East, its influences in the region will grow. As a development partner in that region, China is also coming out of its isolation as a player in the international politics. China's influence in and partnership with Central Asia and her constructive engagement with Russia is likely to grow under the Trump presidency. A new political realignment may follow the economic partnership as envisaged by BRICS.

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## The Thick theory of globalization:

The thick theory is more involved and complex as it takes into account social historical, cultural and political processes. By tracking the long history of globalization since the spread of cultures, for example, religion and technology, the world has been globalizing for a long time. The very fact that the discussion of the US election and the phenomenon of Mr. Trump has been a talking point in and around the globe is a testimony to the vibrancy of globalization. The technologically, culturally and socially integrated nature of the globalized world is not likely to be unraveled.

Since the march of globalization will continue, despite (or because of) Trump and Brexit, a global sociology is of great relevance to the world and to Bangladesh, which is not likely to close its doors and windows on globalization.

## Outline of a Global Sociology:

I present below in outline form an agenda for global sociology in the 21st century.

Sociology – like economics – was conceived as a moral discipline and over the years as it became matured, it became more technical and ideological and less moral. Sociology, in order to be relevant, has to engage with the moral issues of our time. The three key moral issues of our time are extreme social inequality, mindless war and violence and callous environmental destruction. Sociology has to address these three key issues globally and glocally. Glocalization as a concept and a process will receive growing attention in the coming years.

Wars and violence are not just consequences of social inequality and capitalism. One has to have a broader and much more complex understanding of the forces that lead to growing violence and wars. Here macro theories need to be synthesized with the micro theories of human behavior, the structural context has to be mingled with cultural categories of ethnicity and beliefs. Sociology, in the grand plan of Auguste Comte, was meant to be an ideology of humanity. It is time to return to concerns of humanity and justice using sociological tools so that sociology becomes a science of humanity reminding us of our common and inclusive humanity. Here stereotypes of the so-called East and West have to be replaced by what Jack Goody calls, East in the West to which we may add West in the East. We live in a global world, which is entangled.

The environmental crisis is not a product of a liberal, anti-establishment conspiracy. We have only one planet to share and that planet has become fragile due to our own actions and inactions. It is time sociologists play a larger role in understanding the intricate relationship between the ecological infrastructure on which we build the edifice of our society and culture. The care of the ecosystem forces us to think of ourselves as part of a common humanity and not as two hundred odd nation-states protecting their own national interests.

It is time that in addition to established sub-fields of sociology, we give a renewed focus on the sociology of morality and stretch the boundaries of sociology to make it truly a global enterprise.

<sup>1</sup> <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/news/release-of-world-development-indicators-2015>.

# RC 09 Sessions in the Upcoming ISA World Congress in Toronto, Canada (July 15-21, 2018)

## **RC09 Business Meeting**

### **The Changing Terrain of Aid, Humanitarianism, and Development**

Session Organizer(s):

Suzan ILCAN, [suzan.ilcan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:suzan.ilcan@uwaterloo.ca), University of Waterloo, Canada Liam SWISS, [lswiss@mun.ca](mailto:lswiss@mun.ca), Memorial University, Canada  
(Session in English)

This panel focuses on the practices of aid, humanitarianism, and development. We welcome papers that address (a) the recent changes to aid, humanitarianism, or development, such as the fragmentation of the aid/humanitarian field; violence against humanitarians/aid workers; formation of new border regimes and humanitarian subjectivities; dangerous migrant journeys and deaths at sea or on land; increased xenophobia and protectionism; and, shrinking support for development and humanitarian assistance, and/or (b) the responses to these changes, including novel forms of/actors involved in development and humanitarian assistance, and the establishment of social collectivities for political change, including community organizations, rights-based associations, and social justice groups. We are interested in papers that examine these issues through a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives, and aim to include a diversity of perspectives and scholars in the discussion. Submissions by scholars from the Global South are especially encouraged.

### **Global Openness or National Foreclosure?**

Session Organizer(s):

Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, [uschuerkens@gmail.com](mailto:uschuerkens@gmail.com), Université Rennes 2 and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France  
(Session in English)

In current societies, we can find new conflict lines: national foreclosure or global openness. There is the skepticism of broad population and electoral groups as opposed to the better established groups and the elites, the discomfort related to the consequences of globalization and the increasing success of populist parties. The tendency to foreclosure within the confines of the national state (communitarianism) and the rejection of universal values that the representatives of cosmopolitanism uphold, collide. We see in today's societies a deep social conflict line and want this session to present and discuss case studies of individual countries, studying with an empirical basis this new conflict line in the actual global era.



# RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

## **Development Cooperation's Focus on Childhood. Global Visions and Local Realities**

Session Organizer(s):

Isabelle DANIC, [isabelle.danic@univ-rennes2.fr](mailto:isabelle.danic@univ-rennes2.fr), ESO RENNES, France  
Doris BUEHLER-NIEDERBERGER, [buehler@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:buehler@uni-wuppertal.de), University of Wuppertal, Germany  
(Session in English)

Programs of development cooperation put children in the spotlight and even very young children. But, how do they define children and what is their understanding of good childhood and education? The hypothesis we propose to examine is that the policy for young children is authorized by a discourse on the child's universal and natural body and development. For older children such assumptions of a universal human development seem less explicit. Still, an amazing worldwide similarity of school institutions and education programs remains. This raises another issue: What do these assumptions include and what are their consequences for local societies and for different groups of children in these societies? What kind of multifaceted realities of children's lives are they confronted with, in different regions, according to age and to sex? Are the definitions of childhood(s), as organizations of development implement them, suitable for children living in contexts of poverty, and often enough of power relationships, violence, injustice? What are examples of development cooperation programs attempting to be sensitive to local realities and what are their conditions and outcomes? Session organizers welcome contributions addressing a wide range of such programs and local realities: proposals on development cooperation's vision of childhood, on Southern childhood(s) and on the potential discrepancy and its effects. Organizers will give special attention to contributions who give insight into (differing) understandings of what might be violence children are experiencing and how shall be dealt with it as well.

## **Discourse, Power, and Development: Turning a Critical Lens on INGOs**

Session Organizer(s):

Mollie PEPPER, [mollie.pepper@gmail.com](mailto:mollie.pepper@gmail.com), Northeastern University, USA  
(Session in English)

This panel turns its attention to the International Nongovernmental Organizations that shape development practices. By asking about the discourses, imaginaries, and assemblages of international development work, this panel takes a critical approach to thinking about the role of INGOs. What discourses shape the work of INGOs? How are those discourses created, validated, and perpetuated and what does this tell us about where power lies? What is the effect of these discourses in practice? Considering implications of development discourses for the politics of power in development aid allows for a more critical and reflexive study of international development. A careful interrogation of the construction of the various actors of development and the "needs" that development aid addresses shapes this panel's discussion to bring us collectively closer to a critical reflection on the roles and work of INGOs.

# RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

## **Political Inequality, Economic Inequality, and Social Transformations Since 1989**

Session Organizer(s):

Joshua DUBROW, [dubrow.2@osu.edu](mailto:dubrow.2@osu.edu), Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland  
(Session in English)

Over the last thirty years, Europe, North America, and Latin America have seen, to varying forms and extents, major changes to their societies. Within this era, economic inequality has steadily grown within the nations of Europe and North America, while it has declined (though it remains high) within many Latin American countries. Social scientists have documented these changes for thirty years, and in the last decade -- spurred by the Global Economic Crisis of 2008 -- economic inequality has become a hot political issue. How have governments in these regions of the world addressed economic inequality? How has economic inequality influenced political inequality -- defined as structured differences in influence over the decisions made within political processes, and the outcomes of those decisions? What are the consequences of economic and political inequalities for marginalized social and political groups? This session invites papers that explore the nexus of political and economic inequality during periods of intense social transformations over the last thirty years in Europe, North America, and Latin America.

## **The Governance of Enterprises: Global Approaches and Local Cultures**

Session Organizer(s):

Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, [uschuerkens@gmail.com](mailto:uschuerkens@gmail.com), Université Rennes 2 and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France Michel VILLETTE, [michel.villette@icloud.com](mailto:michel.villette@icloud.com), AgroParisTech, France  
(Session in English)

In this session, we seek to explore with evidence the type of management approaches that are practiced in selected countries amidst an increasing but insufficient interpretation of the current situation. There is a need for a clear understanding of how local and international organizations are managed because: i) there is an apparent gap in the literature on management and leadership as most of the recent studies are limited in scope and unconvincing in their theoretical and methodological approaches; ii) decision makers in general and managers in particular of both public and private sector organisations have encountered increasing challenges of having to balance between the demands of a globalising power of business and the requirements of a localising power of culture and politics. The effects of globalisation have been felt throughout the world especially after the 2008 financial crisis and the recent decline in oil prices and revenues from tourism and the complexity of the eminent economic, social and political changes that have very often resulted in contradictory and problematic outcomes, especially where opportunities for development, in terms of labour and raw materials, are available but not properly used. The consequence of this lack of understanding of management is a mere concentration on trying to tackle the symptoms of problems not the roots of the problem.

# RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

## **Social Structures and Inequality. Do Western Concepts Apply Globally?**

Session Organizer(s):

Dieter NEUBERT, dieter.neubert@uni-bayreuth.de, University of Bayreuth, Germany  
(Session in English)

The current discussion on middle classes in the Global South has placed one of sociology's core topics - the analysis of social structure and inequality - in the focus of a global sociology. At the same time, this debate shows that the conceptual developments in the social structure debate in sociology are hardly taken into account. The debate on global middle classes is dominated by a simplified notion of class reduced to income. The question whether classes in a Marxian, Weberian or Bourdieuan sense exist is hardly discussed. It is implied that classes are socio-culturally homogenous despite well-known differences with regard to religion, ethnicity or gender and the existence of different lifestyles. Moreover, patterns of intersectionality are hardly recognised. The simple question is: Do Western sociological concepts apply globally? If so, do we find in the Global South or transitional countries similar classes and social groups as in the "West" and how they are they defined? Or is there a need to develop the concepts further to analyse societies in different world regions. The panel invites empirical and conceptual contributions case studies of specific classes or groups or countries as well as comparative studies.

## **Business Enterprises and Development : Qualitative Approaches and Case Studies**

Session Organizer(s):

Ulrike M.M. SCHUERKENS, uschuerkens@gmail.com, Université Rennes 2 and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France

Habibul KHONDKER, habib.khondker@gmail.com, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Michel VILLETTE, michel.villette@icloud.com, AgroParisTech, France

(Session in French, English)

The positives impacts of business enterprises on social and economic development are often alleged by economists, based on statistics, numbers and figures at the macro level. Conversely, the negative impacts such as the exploitation of workers, the destruction of the traditional way of life, the expropriation of the poor, the health and environmental damages have been often documented by sociologists and activists in all parts of the world. In response to these critics, large corporations have developed a window dressing strategy. Green washing, social responsibility allegations and others propaganda formula have made the understanding of what is actually going on even more confuse. The aim of this session is to discuss positive as well as negative impacts of business enterprises activities on local development. We expect well documented qualitative observations and cases studies in order to develop a renewed theoretical approach of the contribution of business enterprises to development.

# RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

## **Social Justice in a Turbulent World: South Asia in Focus**

Session Organizer(s):

Habibul KHONDKER, habib.khondker@gmail.com, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Rukmini SEN, senrukmini18@gmail.com, Ambedkar University Delhi, India

(Session in English)

This session will examine social transformation under conditions of lop-sided economic growth in South Asia which is generating a variety of grievances and potential threats to ecological systems and social orders. Social justice has become a major concern for the ordinary people who are losing their rights to land, livelihood and are threatened by a variety of looming ecological crises. Social movements of various sorts have appeared to champion the agenda of social justice. Issue of social justice in the conditions of rapid unequal social transformation has taken many forms ranging from right to safe, clean water to health rights apart from broader civil rights and political rights. The political regimes, nominally democratic, are not advancing the causes of democracy by recognizing the democratic rights of the working class, poor and the marginal groups. The space of civil society activism has also shrunk. It is only the voices of people and the progressive groups articulating the theme of social justice who are pitched against the massive forces of social transformation. The session aims to understand this dynamics so as to heighten the level of understanding and consciousness about the central issues of social justice in South Asia.

## **Public Sector Corruption, Inequality and Social Transformations**

Session Organizer(s):

Ilona WYSMULEK, ilona.wysmulek@gmail.com, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

(Session in English)

Public sector corruption constitutes one of the basic social problems that is yet far from being solved. It is one of the mechanism of social exclusion and has unequal harmful effect on different groups in society. As to recent theoretical approaches, countries with prevalent corruption are in the 'inequality trap', which constitutes the vicious circle of low institutional trust and high corruption perception. Corruption is often compared to contagious disease, as perceiving widespread corruption and unfair treatment in public sector justifies and enhances own corrupt behavior. Despite advances in our knowledge about cross-country variations and harmful effects of corruption, there are many question that still remain unanswered. We encourage in this session to look at the problem of corruption from sociological perspectives, exploring the relation between corruption experiences and life situations, coming from prevailing social context and individual location within this context. This session concentrates on three main research questions: (a) What is the relation between individual social position and corruption experience in local public institutions? (b) What are the sources, new forms and mechanisms behind corruption experiences in different public introductions? (c) How do social, economic and political transformations as well as sector specific interventions impact institutional and structural corruption? This session looks for papers with comparative cross-country or cross-sector perspective, as well as papers with new theoretical framework that feature relation of institutional corruption, inequality and social transformations.

# RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

## **Transnational Civil Society and Environmental Governance**

Session Organizer(s):

Yifei LI, yifei.li@nyu.edu, New York University, China  
(Session in English)

Environmental protection is a central problem in international development. As environmental awareness grows globally, so does the international race for natural resources. Not surprisingly, environmental governance is becoming more contentious than ever. In this context, transnational civil society plays an increasingly salient role in global environmental politics. Some civil society organizations choose to tightly band together, often times crossing different political scales. Others form close ties with actors from the private sector. Yet others coalesce with governmental actors to advance their environmental agenda. As the transnational environmental civil society evolves, it raises important empirical and theoretical questions about justice, power, knowledge, and governance, among others. This session takes stock of empirical evidence about transnational environmental civil society from different parts of the world, and seeks to advance our understanding of transnational advocacy in the Anthropocene.

## **The Global Climate Crisis and the Climate and Social Justice Movements for a Just Transition**

Session Organizer(s):

John FORAN, foran@soc.ucsb.edu, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA  
(Session in English)

In December 2015, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change convened in Paris to finalize a global climate treaty. The resulting "Paris Agreement" is inadequate to the task of addressing the unprecedented global climate crisis, based as it is on non-binding voluntary national pledges, which even if all met would take global warming into the catastrophic range. Simultaneously, a sprawling climate justice movement has been growing in numbers, reach, and strength, interlinked in a vast network of networks. After Paris and now in the wake of Donald Trump's administration in the United States, these movements are trying to scale up their efforts to put in place alternatives to both "business-as-usual" global neoliberalism and the "capitalist reformist" hopes placed in the Paris Agreement. The new social movements seek both a fair and binding global climate treaty and pathways toward deeply sustainable societies. This session asks whether it remains possible to "change everything," as Naomi Klein puts it in her best-selling book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. Consisting of prominent public intellectuals, climate activists, and interdisciplinary scholars, the panel will collectively address the question: how can the global climate and social justice movements work creatively to craft action plans that address the root causes and future impacts of climate change? In doing so, we will be rethinking the most important global social movement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and how humanity's response to the problem of climate change will define the conditions of life as the century wears on.

# RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

## **Social Problems, Development and Policy in Africa**

Session Organizer(s):

Jonathan AMOYAW, jamoyaw@uwo.ca, University of Western Ontario, Canada

Godfred BOATENG, godfred.boateng@northwestern.edu, Northwestern University, USA  
(Session in English)

Development in Africa has been hampered by a myriad of problems, which have crippled the social structure of several African countries and stifled the catching up process with the West. Gender inequality, lack of decent jobs, corruption, religious and ethnic conflicts, food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, child malnutrition, and environmental degradation are persistent in many African countries. Although these social issues have received some attention from development and academic communities, it has translated into fewer functioning and transforming policies. Many countries are plagued with dormant policies and approaches for tackling these persistent and frequently multidimensional problems. The overall goal of this session is to stimulate a critical discussion by academics and social researchers on case studies, approaches, and best practices related to the problems mentioned and examine the public policy implications for these challenges. Particularly, this session will situate problems within the context of potential policy intervention strategies. Papers are invited from individuals who are working on such initiatives, especially those that center on poverty reduction, social development, gender mainstreaming, health, policy issues, livelihood strategies, and other mechanisms that seek to improve the overall quality of life in African communities.

## **Tolerance in Dislocation: The Global/Local Model of the Arab Gulf States and Societies**

Session Organizer(s):

Rima SABBAN, rima.sabban@zu.ac.ae, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

(Session in English)

The fast and hyper transformation in Gulf Societies and States could be a form of dislocation as Lacan characterized the “de-centered” or dislocated places by forces outside itself. This panel proposes a discussion of the speedy transformation of the Arab Gulf States and societies (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates). The recent economic stagnation resulting from the drop in the oil prices has left the Gulf region with multiple models of change. The panel invites a discussion of such multiplicity from different forms of interaction: the old and the new, the global and the local, the centered and the “de-centered” etc... Such forms of fragmentations and societal ruptures/and not, could also be forms of dynamic change as scholars of the region have pointed to. The aim here is to problematize the different relationships - identities, ethnicities, believes, generations, geographies, and modalities in Gulf societies. Situated in a region burning with violence, the Gulf States (UAE particularly) are trying to lead by example. They are presented as oasis of tolerance and happiness. The question remains can the Gulf States and societies sustain such model of development? How do they maintain the current balance of diversity and dislocation? How can they resolve the multiple identities, and interconnectivity? How do such forms interact and reflect a peacefully surface of interconnectivity? Can the Gulf States present a model of peace and tolerance to the neighboring countries as they proclaim?



# RC 09 Sessions, Toronto, Canada 2018

## **Next Generation of Work in Development Sociology**

Session Organizer(s):

Samuel COHN, s-cohn@tamu.edu, Texas A and M University, USA

(Session in English)

This is an open session for any papers that contain innovative new theories or important new findings in development sociology. Presenters may come from any theoretical tradition, use any methodology - either quantitative or qualitative, may study any region of the world and may consider any time period including the present day. The session is a forum to present new work that is exciting, stimulating and represents a significant advance in sociological thinking or knowledge. Papers that are good but don't fit the standard molds are particularly welcome.

## **Young People's Aspirations, Prefigurative Politics, and the Search for Alternative Futures in the Global South**

Session Organizer(s):

Eva GERHARZ, eva.gerharz@rub.de, Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of Social Science, Germany

Sandrine GUKELBERGER, sandrine.gukelberger@rub.de, Sociology, Germany

Antje DANIEL, antje.daniel@uni-bayreuth.de, University Bayreuth, Germany

Deniz Gunce DEMIRHISAR, dgunce@ehess.fr, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Turkey

(Session in English)

Currently, we are witnessing disillusionment with development and its constitutive elements - such as modernization, democratization, and participation. Much of this is linked to a deep sense of frustration related to struggles in securing livelihoods, improving precarious working conditions, improving public services, or changing of gender orders in the Global South. Additionally, in light of the political swing to the right in Europe and the US, the grand formulas of the development narrative do not offer the same hope or venues in which to imagine a decent and safe future. By engaging in prefigurative politics, young people do not only express dissent but develop a "capacity to aspire", through embodying forms of social relations, decision-making, and specific (sub-)cultural systems of representation. With their aim being to model imagined futures, prefigurative politics serve to provide the means to articulate aspirations in the present, and envision and experiment with alternative life-designs, gender order, and citizenships – albeit on a temporary and often highly volatile basis. This session seeks to make inquiries into this new development by using theoretically and empirically grounded insights into projects and experiences with prefigurative politics in different parts of the Global South, and to analyze the negotiations within such initiatives, which are geared towards producing alternative narratives of a "decent life". Our aim is to investigate the tensions which emerge from the lived experience of individuals, who seek to escape the insecurity and complexity of the contemporary global economy through a utopian vision of a different society.

# Recent RC09 Member Publications

**Adebayo, Kudus Oluwatoyin, Olugbenga Samuel Falase, and Abel Akintunde.** "‘Here, we are all equal!’: soccer viewing centres and the transformation of age social relations among fans in South-Western Nigeria." *Soccer & Society* (2017): 1-17.

**Abstract:** The spread of soccer viewing centres (SVCs) in Nigeria is one of the unfolding legacies of global sporting media in Africa. While, providing access to live broadcast of European soccer competitions, SVCs have developed into supplementary social spaces where culturally defined rules of social relations are contested. Using Goffman’s notion of performance and Agbalagba in Yoruba normative system, in conjunction with sociological perspective on space, the study explores the context and processes in the transformation of age social relations in Ibadan, South-Western Nigeria. Data were obtained through participant observation, and 23 in-depth interviews with viewing centre owners and soccer fans. Findings depict the SVC as a constructed space, with conflicting meanings, attitudes and practices, which inadvertently fracture and render fluid, the expectations of norms of age social relations. In conclusion, European soccer drives the spread of supplementary social spaces, which impact local social structures in critical ways. <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/j9VdCZ5iMEsGCJyc8PEx/full>

## HABERMAS AND GIDDENS ON PRAXIS AND MODERNITY

A Constructive Comparison



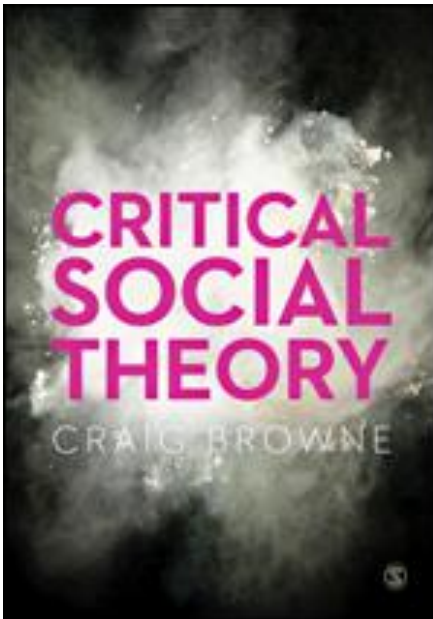
Craig Browne



**Browne, Craig. 2017 *Habermas and Giddens on Praxis and Modernity: A Constructive Comparison*, London, Anthem Press.**

<http://www.anthempress.com/habermas-and-giddens-on-modernity>

‘Habermas and Giddens on Modernity: A Constructive Comparison’ investigates how two of the most important and influential contemporary social theorists have sought to develop the modernist visions of the constitution of society through the autonomous actions of subjects. It compares Habermas and Giddens’ conceptions of the constitution of society, interpretations of the social-structural impediments to subjects’ autonomy, and their attempts to delineate potentials for progressive social change within contemporary society. Habermas and Giddens are shown to have initiated new paradigms and perspectives that seek to address the foundational problems of social theory and consolidate the modernist vision of an autonomous society.



**Browne, Craig. 2017. *Critical Social Theory*. London, Sage.**

In this accomplished, sophisticated and up-to-date account of the state of critical social theory today, Craig Browne explores the key concepts in critical theory (like critique, ideology, and alienation), and crucially, goes on to relate them to major contemporary developments such as globalization, social conflict and neo-liberal capitalism. Critical theory here is not solely the work of Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse and Habermas. The book begins with the Frankfurt School but uses this as a base to then explore more contemporary figures such as: Nancy Fraser, Axel Honneth, Luc Boltanski, Cornelius Castoriadis, Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens, Pierre Bourdieu, Hannah Arendt. A survey of critical social theory for our times, this is an essential guide for students wishing to grasp a critical understanding of social theory in the modern world.

**Dieter Neubert (2016) Kenya's unconscious middle class? Between regional-ethnic political mobilisation and middle class lifestyles. In: Henning Melber (ed.), The rise of Africa's middle class: Challenging the neo-liberal economy. London, Zed Books.**

**Genov, Nikolai (2017) 'Information Resources in Upgrading Organizational Rationality'. In: Rončević, Borut and Tomšič, Matevž, Eds. Information Society and Its Manifestations: Economy, Politics, Culture. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, pp. 23-40.**

**Genov, Nikolai (2016) 'Towards a Synergetic and Probabilistic Approach to Cross-border Migration'. International Journal of Social Sciences, Vol. 5, N 4, pp. 45-66, DOI: 10.20472/SS.2016.5.4.003.**

**Abstract:** The cross-border migration has multiple causes, variety of manifestations and potentials for diverging effects. Paradoxically, the mainstream theories on the phenomenon are one-dimensional and deterministic. The effort to resolve the contradiction proceeds in four steps. First, mainstream theories of international migration are scrutinized for potential contributions to a synergetic and probabilistic conceptual framework. Second, the strategy for building the framework is outlined by elaborating on the components of the migration chain. Third, the components are integrated in a conceptual whole reflecting the multidimensionality and the variability of the migration's structures and processes. Fourth, the capacities of the integrated framework to guide synergetic and probabilistic descriptions, explanations and forecasting of cross-border migration are put under scrutiny. The conceptual developments are tested with a view to the needs for efficient management of the cross-border migration flows.

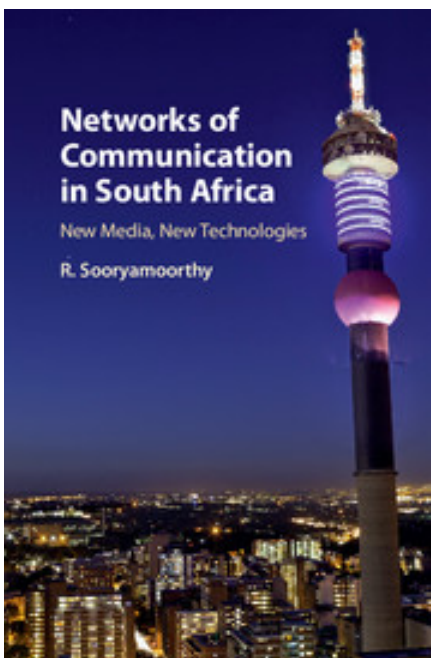
**Genov, Nikolai (2017) 'Does Europeanization Foster Constructive Individualization?' *Comparative Sociology*, vol. 16, N 2, pp. 183-212.**

Abstract: This paper aims at explaining changes in the conditions for individualization in ten central and eastern European (CEE) countries after they have joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007. The expected changes had to follow the transfer of the EU's *acquis communautaire* to the CEE and the accompanying Europeanization understood as upgrading of governance. Indicators used in longitudinal studies are identified in order to test the assumption. Synchronic and diachronic comparison of outcomes of studies on the topic is carried out. The results don't support the hypothesis about relevant changes in the conditions of individualization in the CEE countries due to their Europeanization. The upgrading of governance quality affects the individualization in the old and new EU member states similarly. Declining quality of the conditions for individualization appears in both groups of countries with the same frequency and intensity too.

**Khondker, Habibul Haque "Globalization and Social Inequality" in *International Review of Sociology*. 32 (2) March, pp. 170 – 179.**

**Khondker, Habibul Haque (2016) "Globality and the Moral Ecology of the World: A Theoretical Exploration" in *Protosociology, Borders of Global Theory*, vol. 33, pp. 41 – 57.**

**Khondker, Habibul Haque (2016) "Entangled Globality" in Gunnar Olofsson and Sven Hult (Eds) *Class, Sex and Revolutions: Goran Therborn A Critical Appraisal*. Lund: Arkiv Forlag. pp. 321 – 336.**



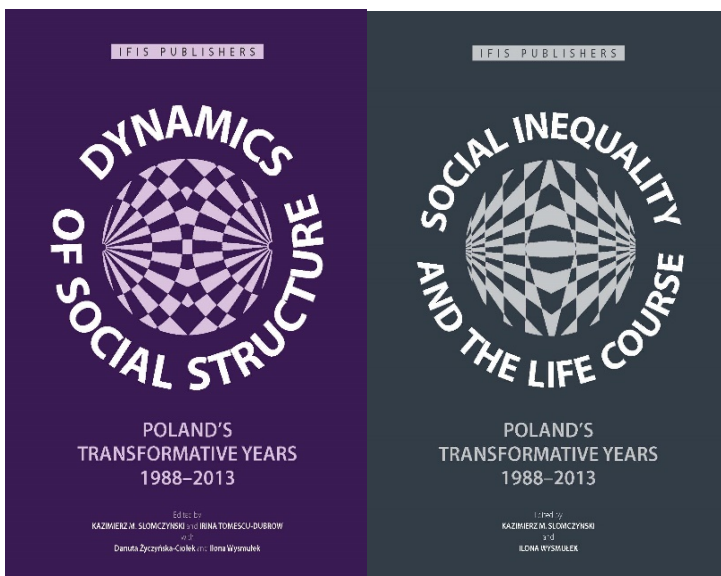
**Sooryamoorthy, Radhamany (2017) *Networks of Communication in South Africa: New Media, New Technologies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.**

The book is about the development of communication patterns, social contacts and networks in South Africa. Based on pioneering quantitative and qualitative data, the book analyses trends in changing media use in Africa, showing the development of the use of new media for communication by South Africans of all ages, races and genders in relation to the development of media infrastructure, its cost and government policy.

## **The Arab Transformations Project**

**Pamela Abbott -- University of Aberdeen, UK**

The Arab Transformation Project is designed to stimulate research into the relationship between political beliefs, values, and practices. The project contributes to evaluating country and regional socio-economic and political trends based on system-, meso-, and individual-level factors. This analysis contributes to understanding the root causes and results of the Arab uprisings, as well as examining the conditions of possible future developments. The core of the project was a public opinion survey carried out in six Arab countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia in 2014). We have also compiled a data base for the same six countries plus Algeria from 1960-2015 made up of macro data, indexes and selected variables from public opinion polls including the World Values survey, Arab Barometer, Afro Barometer and the Gallup World Poll. The survey dataset and the specially compiled longitudinal database gathering 2000-2015 data makes it possible to look comparatively at trends in attitudes and behavior in the context of the social, political, and economic transformations in the Middle East and North Africa since the 2010-2011 Uprisings. The Arab Transitions project was funded through the European Commission's FP7 framework. We are now writing up the main findings from the project for journal articles and monographs as well as engaging with policy makers and making the findings available in a series of policy briefs. The publications from the project to date including the reports submitted to the European Union, working papers, policy briefs and the survey data set and the longitudinal data base are available at <https://www.researchgate.net/project/The-Arab-Transformations-Project>.



**Slomczynski, Kazimierz M., Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, Danuta Życzyńska-Ciolek, Ilona Wysmulek, eds. 2016. Dynamics of Social Structure: Poland's Transformative Years, 1988–2013. Warsaw, Poland: IFiS Publishers.**

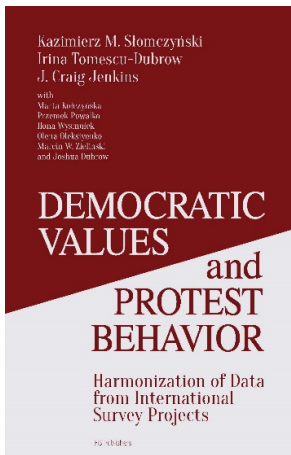
This book explores main social and economic phenomena that, across nations, are fundamental to transformations of the social structure: labor market processes, precarity, processes and mechanisms of inequality, and perceptions of attainment and of resource allocation. The idea of dynamic social structure

implies that structures are changeable and produce tensions and conflict between people, groups, and institutions. The case of Poland demonstrates that social and economic phenomena related to the labor market remain major stratifying forces.



**Slomczynski, Kazimierz M. and Ilona Wysmulek, eds. 2016. *Social Inequality and the Life Course: Poland's Transformative Years, 1988–2013*. Warsaw, Poland: IFiS Publishers.**

This book explores various aspects of social inequalities and their consequences for the life course of individuals. These include core issues of political sociology, such as voting representation and political attitudes and knowledge. Other elements of the life course this volume investigates pertain to education and skills, religiosity and health issues. The idea of life course implies that individuals and groups are best understood when key parts of their lives are studied and included in models accounting for their behavior and attitudes. The Polish Panel Survey, POLPAN 1988–2013, is the empirical foundation of this volume. POLPAN is the longest continuously run panel survey in Central and Eastern Europe that focuses on changes in social structure with individuals as the units of observation. The context of Poland's transformation and the availability of this unique panel survey constitute a great opportunity to study changes in the social structures. Together with *Dynamics of Social Structure: Poland's Transformative Years, 1988–2013* (IFiS Publishers, 2016), these two volumes belong to the series of books that use POLPAN to provide analyses of, and insights into Polish society. They are available at [polpan.org](http://polpan.org).



**Slomczyński, Kazimierz M., Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, J. Craig Jenkins, with Marta Kolczyńska, Przemek Powalko, Ilona Wysmulek, Olena Oleksiyanko, Marcin W. Zieliński and Joshua K. Dubrow. 2016. *Democratic Values and Protest Behavior. Harmonization of Data from International Survey Projects*. Warsaw: IFiS Publishers.**

Across the world, mass political protest has shaped the course of modern history. Building on decades of theory, we hypothesize that the extent and intensity of political protest is a function of micro-level democratic values and socio-demographics, country-level economic development and democratic practices, and the discrepancy (i.e. cross-level interaction) between a country's democratic practices and peoples' trust in key democratic institutions – that is, political parties, the justice system, and

parliament. This book is a Technical Report on the logic of, and methodology for, creating a multi-year multi-country database needed for comparative research on political protest. It concerns both the selection and ex-post harmonization of survey information and the manner in which the multilevel structured data can be used in substantive analyses.

The database we created contains information on more than two million people from 142 countries or territories, interviewed between the 1960s and 2013. It stores individual-level variables from 1,721 national surveys stemming from 22 well-known international survey projects, including the European Social Survey, the International Social Survey Programme, and the World Values Survey. We constructed comparable measures of peoples' participation in demonstrations and signing petitions, their democratic values and socio-demographic characteristics. We complemented the harmonized individual-level data with macro-level measures of democracy, economic performance, and income inequality gathered from external sources. In the process, we pulled together three strands of survey methodology – on data quality, ex-post harmonization, and multilevel modeling.

This book is funded by the (Polish) National Science Center under a three-year international cooperation grant for the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IFiS PAN), and The Ohio State University (OSU) Mershon Center for International Security Studies (grant number: Harmonia-2012/06/M/HS6/00322).



**Jiménez, Jaime, and Juan C. Escalante. (2017). "A Non-Linear Model for Career Development in Academia." *Journal of Unschooling & Alternative Learning* 10(21).**

Abstract: Since the arrival of modern science, many of the professionals who wish to attain an academic career follow a track we call the *linear model of accomplishment*. Essentially, the model displays a number of sequential steps that each candidate, with minor variations, ought to take. In contrast, the *non-linear model* deals with professionals who are not able to follow the traditional model to achieve a full-fledged academic life, but that, with an evident scientific vocation, resume an academic career after a number of years dedicated to other professional activities. This paper shows that the systems principle of *equifinality* applies to career development in academia, by describing examples of *linear* and *non-linear* development that take place in traditional and non-traditional institutions in Mexico, respectively.

## Recent RC09 Member Research Grants

**Dieter Neubert received a research grant from the Volkswagen Foundation in their programme "Opus Magnum". The grant offers a one year sabattical (April 2017- march 2018) for writing a larger scholarly treatise. The topic is "Social Structures and Inequality in Africa"**

The current discussion on African middle classes shows that neither the empirical reality of African societies with all their inequalities, nor conceptual developments in the social structure debate in sociology are adequately taken into account. Up to date an adequate approach to the analysis of inequality and social structures in sub-Saharan Africa is missing. A first problem is that the existing concepts were developed for the Global North, and that this fact has not been properly considered before applying them to sub-Saharan Africa. Secondly, international debates on the analysis of socio-cultural differentiations are dominated by Anglophone authors, and some very useful approaches developed in the German-speaking countries have been ignored; in particular this applies to the lifestyle and milieu approaches. Thirdly, approaches that have been applied in Africa at different times and from different perspectives are also ignored. Against this backdrop the first aim of the book is to bring together concepts from social structure analysis in sociology to form a multi-dimensional framework. The second aim is to integrate into this general framework knowledge about inequality and social structure in Africa from fields such as political sociology, poverty studies, economics, social anthropology, gender studies, geography and political science. Thirdly, because of the complexity of social structures and patterns of inequality in Africa, an attempt will be made to adapt and extend the existing sociological concepts, so that the book will contribute to the development of a "global sociology".



**RC 09**

**Social Transformations  
and the  
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