

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

What's new in this issue?

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- New publications of RC09 members p. 3
- New projects p. 9
- Work in Progress p. 13
- RC09 at ISA FORUM Brazil p. 15
- Upcoming events p. 17
- Announcements p. 22

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## Remarks from the RC09 Co-Chairs, Ulrike Schuerkens and Habibul Khondker

The new year 2020, marking the end of the second decade of the twenty-first century began inauspiciously. Political troubles and wars aside, forest fire in Australia, flooding in Indonesia and a litany of disasters – natural and man-made – have reminded us that social changes can be discontinuous and that human and societal vulnerability remains a constant despite remarkable social and technological transformations.

Novel Coronavirus appeared in China in the wake of the economic slowdown to 6.1 (still the fastest growing country among the middle and upper middle-income countries),

which should have ramifications for the global economy in a highly inter-connected world.

It is in this global context that we are bringing out our new Newsletter that was kindly prepared by Ilona Wyszmułek with numerous information she received from RC 09 members.

This Newsletter testifies for the large variety of interests of the members of the RC on Social Transformations and the Sociology of Development. You can find new publications on health care access and global health; inequality and social differentiation in Africa; ethnicity and social movements;

P O R T O A L E G R E



## Remarks from the RC09 Co-Chairs: Ulrike Schuerkens and Habibul Khondker — continued

management in Africa and the Arab world; digital transformations and big data; democratization; and austerity.

Moreover, information is given on the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability in Berlin, Germany. A new project Transformative Education for Climate Action is described as well as some short information is included on two PhD projects at the University of Rennes 2, France.

After the session update of the Brazil Forum, a description of a mini conference on “Decolonizing Development: Theories, Methods and Research” in Amsterdam in July 2020 is made. At the end of the Newsletter, you can find an overview of Sam Cohn’s new website and twitter account on development issues.

Last but not least, we send you on behalf of the RC09 executive committee our Best Wishes for 2020 hoping that this New Year will become fruitful for your personal and professional projects.

Best regards,  
Ulrike Schuerkens  
Habibul Khondker  
RC 09 Co-chairs



**IV ISA Forum of Sociology**

**IV ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY**

**ISA** International Sociological Association

July 14-18, 2020  
Porto Alegre, Brazil

**PRESENTERS REGISTRATION**  
Deadline March 19, 2020

# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Harris, Joseph. 2019. “The Politics of Expanding Healthcare Access to the Poor and Informal Sectors.” *Sociological Forum*. 34(4).**

How do the politics of agenda-setting and policy adoption operate in the arena of healthcare reform in the industrializing world? Literature on the 21st century developmental state emphasizes the role of democratic competition and civil society in causing political parties to take up new agendas, while power resources theory stresses the role of left-wing political parties and labor unions in policy adoption. Yet, core tenets of these theories have not been considered extensively in light of dynamics in the industrializing world. This article examines the politics of policy adoption in countries that have recently aimed to provide healthcare access and financial protection to the poor and people in the informal sector in Mexico and Turkey. In line with literature on the 21st century developmental state, we find democratic competition to play an important role

in causing political parties to take up new agendas. However, examination of the cases illuminates surprising dynamics that challenge important elements of sociological theory: right-leaning political parties played important roles in adoption, while labor unions and left wing parties oppose reform in the cases. Public health-minded physicians leading change teams played important roles in agenda-setting and leading the process of implementation.



**Harris, Joseph and Alexandre White. 2019. “The Sociology of Global Health A Literature Review.” *Sociology of Development*, 5(1): pp. 9-30.**

Over the past two decades, a sociology of global health has emerged. While this new subfield takes up some themes and issues that are familiar to the discipline as a whole—among them organizations, social movements, and the social construction of illness—it has also posed new questions and opened new research pathways by formulating and testing theory in environments radically different from the United States. This work has forced sociologists to confront the ethnocentrism of research paradigms that are grounded in the American experience and to consider classical assumptions and constructs in fruitful new ways. Notable recent literature reviews have taken up the issue of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, comparative healthcare systems, and the sociology of development. However, this review is the first to outline

the contours of a coherent sociology of global health. It addresses several questions: What issues are being taken up in this emergent subfield? What added value comes from turning scholarly attention beyond our borders? And what new research agendas lie on the horizon?

# NEW MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

## **Dieter Neubert 2019: *Inequality, Socio-cultural Differentiation and Social Structures in Africa. Beyond Class.* Cham: Palgrave**

This book contends that conventional class concepts are not able to adequately capture social inequality and socio-cultural differentiation in Africa. Earlier empirical findings concerning ethnicity, neo-traditional authorities, patron-client relations, lifestyles, gender, social networks, informal social security, and even the older debate on class in Africa, have provided evidence that class concepts do not apply; yet these findings have mostly been ignored. For an analysis of the social structures and persisting extreme inequality in African societies – and in other societies of the world – we need to go beyond class, consider the empirical realities and provincialise our conventional theories. This book develops a new framework for the analysis of social structure based on empirical findings and more nuanced approaches, including livelihood analysis and intersectionality, and will be useful for students and scholars in African studies and development studies, sociology, social anthropology, political science and geography.

### Contents

- 1 Introduction: The Middle Class Debate and Its Limits
- 2 Poverty and Inequality in Development Policy. Concepts of Poverty, Vulnerability and Livelihood
- 3 Class and Capitalism in the Global South: A Perspective on Africa
- 4 Elements of Socio-Cultural Positioning in Africa
- 5 Patterns of Individual Social Positioning: Gender, Age and Disability
- 6 Risks and Aspirations: Strategies for Coping with Uncertainty
- 7 Extended Concepts of Social Positioning
- 8 A New Framework for the Analysis of Social Structures in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 9 Conclusion
- Index



## **Dieter Neubert 2019: *Nation, ethnicity, milieus and multiple “we’s”. The case of Kenya.* Humanities 19, (8) 3, special issue “Beyond the nation”. - Open Access**

The title of the volume “Future Africa—beyond the nation?” has several implications. Nation is presented as an entity relevant to identification and identity; and in the combination with “future”, nation implies a political vision. It is not hard to find good examples in respect of these implications. However, there are other entities important for to political identification. Often, they do not go beyond the nation but refer to smaller collective identities, such as ethnicity. The revived debate on “the middle class” implies that particular social groupings, such as class, may play a role, too. The question is how relevant are the nation and other collective political identities in Africa, and are they exclusive? Looking at the case of Kenya, we see on the one

hand that collective (political) identities, such as ethnicity, are mobilized especially during elections. On the other hand, these collective identities are less dominant in everyday life and give way to different conducts of life (conceptualized as “milieus”) that are less politicized. We see people maneuvering between multiple “we’s”. Strong political identities are mobilized only in particular conflict-loaded situations that restructure identities in simple binary oppositions of “we” and “they”.

# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Antje Daniel & Dieter Neubert 2019: Civil Society and Social Movements: Conceptual Insights and Challenges in African Contexts. *Critical African Studies*. Online first.**

The debate on different forms of political mobilization and self-organization in Africa refers to the established concepts of civil society and social movements. Knowing that the majority of studies on civil society and social movements focus on the Global North, we ask whether these concepts may be applied to Africa. We need to consider different forms of selforganization and the potential limits of the concepts. At the same time, ‘unusual cases’ from Africa may help us to sharpen our understanding of the concepts and to explore their analytical range and borders. This applies particularly to the observation that the terms civil society and social movement are often used interchange-

ably, which ignores the existing differences between the concepts. Therefore, we first consider their different perspectives: A study of civil society analyses the features of associations in a public sphere or arena and their role in politics and society. A study of social movements looks at processes of mobilization and action. Second, we point out the normative implications of the two concepts, especially with regard to liberal democracy, degree of politicization and relation to violence.



**Dieter Neubert 2019 Middle-income groups in Kenya. Conflicting realities between upward mobility and uncertainty. In: *Sozialpolitik.ch / Social Policy*. 1/2019 – article 1.3.**

For more than a decade scholars mostly from economy and development studies have described the rise of a newly emerging ‘middle class’ in the Global South including Africa. This has led to a ‘middle class narrative’ with the ‘middle class’ as the backbone of economic and democratic development. Especially with regard to the stability of the position of the people in the ‘middle’, empirical social science studies challenge the ‘middle class narrative’ and at their uncertainty and insecurity. This tension between upward mobility at the one hand uncertainty and instability at the other hand

(the vulnerability-security nexus) and the options to cope with this challenge under the condition of limited provision of formal social security is the focus of this case study on Kenya. Instead of an analysis of inequality based on income, it is more helpful to start from the welfare mix and the role of social networks as main elements of provision of social security. Against this background, we identify different strategies of coping that go together with different sets of values and lifestyles, conceptualised as milieus, that are not determined by the socio-economic situation.



**Dieter Neubert 2019: Decentralised conflicts, heterarchy and the limits of conflict regulation. In: Thomas Hüsken, Alexander Solyga, Dida Badi (eds.), The multiplicity of orders and practices A tribute to Georg Klute. Köln: Koeppe, 237-252**



# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Dieter Neubert 2019: What we can learn from the fading myth of the (African) “middle class”. Global-E September 17, 2019, Volume12, Issue 40**

Less than ten years ago we observed a kind of media hype over the “new” middle class in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. This was considered as a large new group of consumers and the most optimistic researchers underlined that they would also be the backbone of a new global movement towards democracy and good governance (Birdsall 2016). Indeed, income figures justify the idea that there is a growing group of people who have climbed above the US \$2.00 per capita/day poverty line. And in Asia and Latin America a consid-

erable part of the population has a per capita income of ten or even twenty US dollars a day. In times of growing critique in post-development and post-colonial studies of development policy, including critique of the concept of “development” itself, this global middle class seems to verify the success of the concept of economic development and economic growth.

Continue reading [here](#)

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**Ulrike Schuerkens, Mohamed Branine and Aminu Mamman (eds). 2019. Pour une sociologie du management en Afrique et dans le monde arabe Paris: L’Harmattan. 240 p.**

The development of Africa and Arab countries requires the development of economic ecosystems capable of generating sufficient wealth to ensure the well-being of the population.

These ecosystems include small businesses, growing medium-sized businesses, large local and internationalizing companies and local subsidiaries of foreign multinationals, to which must be added all business services activities (law firms, accountants, computer specialists, training institutions, etc.).

To create jobs and meet the needs of young people, this economic development must be done as quickly and as lightly as possible, i.e. with a minimum of resources and the lowest possible failure rate. Such agility can only be achieved if it is accepted that

business activity must develop locally by adapting to society as it is and not to society as it should be according to the standards set by the most developed Western countries.



This book, largely based on the work of the European ManaGlobal research programme, proposes to change the way we look at doing business in African and Arab countries. It is a real paradigm shift. To date, international organizations and academics have tended to view local practices as obstacles to development. We show, based on examples from companies, how local practices can be transformed into resources and opportunities, while laws, standards and best practices recommended by international bodies often tend to act as a brake or obstacle. We also show how the blending of local practices with ideas from elsewhere works in practice.

# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Steffen Roth, Harry F. Dahms, Frank Welz, and Sandro Cattacin. (eds.) 2019. Digital transformation of social theory. Virtual Special Issue of Technological Forecasting and Social Change. Volume 146.**

## Introduction

Steffen Roth, Harry F. Dahms, Frank Welz, and Sandro Cattacin: Print theories of computer societies. Introduction to the digital transformation of social theory

## Articles

Marinus Ossewaarde: Digital transformation and the renewal of social theory: Unpacking the new fraudulent myths and misplaced metaphors

Emrah Karakilic: Rethinking intellectual property rights in the cognitive and digital age of capitalism: An autonomist Marxist reading

Karl Palmås: From hacking to simulation: Periodizing digitally-inspired social theory

José Javier Blanco Rivero: The fractal geometry of Luhmann's sociological theory for debugging systems theory

Steffen Roth: Digital transformation of social theory. A research update

Jean-Sébastien Guy: Digital technology, digital culture and the metric/nonmetric distinction

Matthias Wenzel and Matthias Will: The communicative constitution of academic fields in the digital age: The case of CSR

Click here for abstracts and links to the individual contributions: <https://derroth.com/2019/11/06/release-virtual-special-issue-digital-transformation-of-social-theory/>

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**Roth S., Schwede P., Valentinov V., Zazar K., and Kaivo-oja J. (2019), Big data insights into social macro trends (1800-2000): A replication study, Technological Forecasting and Social Change, 149, 119759.**

## Highlights:

⇒ Dominant theories of society are grounded on strong assumptions about the capitalist nature of the modern society

⇒ Results from this advanced replication of Roth et al. (2017) confirm doubts that society has been capitalist

⇒ Popular conceptions ought to undergo regular routine checks

⇒ Social theories which are no longer by default geared primarily to political and economic issues are required in the future

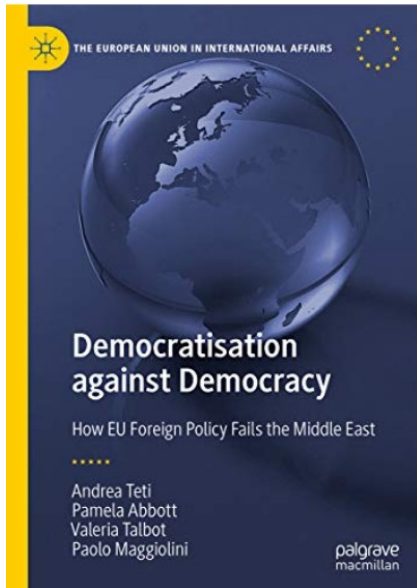
## Abstract

Seeking to advance a big data approach to social theory, Roth et al. (2017) applied the Google Ngram Viewer to explore the way the evolution of the function systems of the modern society is reflected in the Google Books corpus. The authors produced a highly counterintuitive finding that the modern Western so-

cieties cannot be adequately described as capitalist. In order to respond to the controversies raised by this finding, the present research note replicates Roth et al.'s (2017) study while using a superior plotting software that allows to control the risk that keyword strength can be biased due to the neglect of keyword quantity. Covering the English-, French-, and German-language corpora, the present replication effort has confirmed the existence of distinct trends exhibited by the individual function systems, such as secularization, the persistent dominance of the political system, and the relatively lesser role of the economic system. These results are largely consistent with those of Roth et al. (2017) and thus lend credence to the authors' sceptical assessment of the validity of the capitalist semantics. The research note concludes by pleading for the routinization of big data-driven checks of the modern social theories.

## MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Teti, A., Abbott, P., Talbot, V. and Maggiolini, P. 2020. Democratisation against Democracy: How the EU Fails the Middle East. Chen: Palgrave Macmillian.**



This book shows, first, why the EU is not a ‘normative actor’ in the Southern Mediterranean, and second, how and why EU democracy promotion fails. Drawing on a combination of discourse analysis of EU policy documents and evidence from opinion polls showing ‘what the people want’, the book shows EU policy fails because the EU promotes a conception of democracy which people do not share. Likewise, the EU’s strategies for economic development are misconceived because they do not reflect public opinion’s preferences for greater social justice and reducing inequalities. This double failure highlights a paradox of EU democracy promotion: while nominally emancipatory, it de facto undermines the very transitions to democracy and inclusive development it aims to pursue. The ‘gap’ between EU images and populations’ self-conceptions explains negative perceptions of the EU – undermining its role as a ‘normative power’ –, and how the EU’s own narratives ‘Other’ MENA populations.



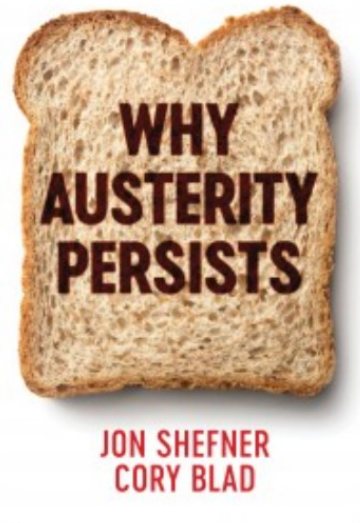
**Shefner, Jon, and Cory Blad. 2019 Why Austerity Persists. Medford, MA: Polity Press, 208 pages.**

Several nations in the Global North have turned to austerity policies in an effort to resolve recent financial ills. What many failed to recognize is the longer history and varied pattern of such policies in the Global South over preceding decades – policies which had largely proven to fail.

Shefner and Blad trace the 45-year history of austerity and how it became the go-to policy to resolve a host of economic problems. The authors use a variety of international cases to address how austerity has been implemented, who has been hurt, and who has benefited. They argue that the policy has been used to address very different kinds of crises, making states

and polities responsible for a variety of errors and misdeeds of private actors. The book answers a number of important questions: why austerity persists as a policy aimed at resolving national crises despite evidence that it often does not work; how the policy has evolved over recent decades; and which powerful people and institutions have helped impose it across the globe.

This timely book will appeal to students, researchers, and policymakers interested in globalization, development, political economy, and economic sociology.





# NEW PROJECTS

## Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability

Prepared by Nina Baur and Angela Million (GCSMUS Speakers)

Since 01.01.2020, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is funding the “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS) via the DAAD program “Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation – exceed”. GCSMUS is based at Technische Universität Berlin (Germany) and connects 48 institutional partners from 48 countries and 8 world regions.

The center aims at developing transdisciplinary spatial methods in order to improve both the academic education in the spatial disciplines and planning practice via evidence-based and low-impact urban development (LIUD). The center will enable scholars to get in contact with methodologists from various disciplines all over the world and to deepen discussions with researchers from various methodological angles. Amongst others, we want to discuss issues such as spatial methods, cross-cultural methods and issues of comparability, decolonizing social science methodology, methods for the Global South, methodological issues relevant for specific world regions (e.g. Africa, America, Asia, Europe), applied research methods on urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning, arts- and design-based methods, interdisciplinary and collaborative research methods, methods for values research, global wellbeing and sustainability, big data and cross-disciplinary research.

The thematic focus of the center's work will focus on the Sustainable Development Goal #11 of the Agenda 2030 to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. SDG # 11 addresses all dimensions of sustainability namely:

- ⇒ social sustainability by reducing poverty, spatial segregation and social inequality on various dimensions (e.g. class, gender, race/ethnicity, age and disability)
- ⇒ economic sustainability by overcoming economic exclusion, creating career and business opportunities for all income groups and building resilient societies and economies

- ⇒ ecological sustainability by reducing negative environmental impacts of cities, by reducing the negative impact of disasters and climate change on cities and by protecting and safeguarding the world's natural and cultural heritage.

SDG #11 in particular aims at giving access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, green and public spaces, transport system as well as basic services (such as water, food, electricity, sanitation, waste disposal, internet, heating and/or cooling, clean air, education, work/jobs, health care, leisure activities and sports)

In order to achieve these goals, the center is organized as a peer-learning process and will implement several strategic Actions between 2020 and 2024. While some of the center's activities are for GCSMUS-member-institutions only, many activities such as international conferences, workshops as well as other events and funding opportunities are open also to non-members.

If you are interested in being informed about these activities or the center's activities in general, please kindly subscribe to our newsletter by registering via the following website:

<https://lists.tu-berlin.de/mailman/listinfo/mes-smusnews>

More information on the center can be found on:

[www.mes.tu-berlin.de/GCSMUS](http://www.mes.tu-berlin.de/GCSMUS)

If you have any other inquiries on the center, please kindly contact the GCSMUS Office by sending an email to: [smus@mes.tu-berlin.de](mailto:smus@mes.tu-berlin.de)

# NEW PROJECTS

## UC-CSU NXTerra: Transformative Education for Climate Action

Prepared by John Foran

UC-CSU NXTerra is a Knowledge Action Network (KAN) and digital platform for climate educators, developed by faculty from the University of California and California State University systems.

Recognizing the severity of the climate crisis, we are driven by profound and renewed belief in the power of education to help reimagine and build a better, more sustainable and environmentally just world, or “next Earth.”

Although the scale of the problem demands that academia, the sciences, business, government, and the public quickly begin acting in concert to achieve the best possible outcomes, decades of inaction rooted in interest-driven policy disagreements have ushered in a new era of environmental and climate policy crises. The range of possible results includes widely divergent “next Earths” and any number of paths forward.

As University of California and California State University-based educators focused on climate change, critical sustainability, and climate justice studies, our responsibility could not be greater to our students—the generation that will forge the ideas that will determine which of the many possible “next Earths” we are creating will be our home.

To that end, NXTerra produces, curates, and delivers climate change, critical sustainability, and climate justice education resources for educators of every discipline—from the arts and humanities to the human and social sciences and the natural sci-

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UC-CSU NXTerra is both a Knowledge Action Network (KAN) and Digital Platform (web site) for teaching the climate crisis.

As part of the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative and the sustainability efforts of the California State University system — our mission at NXTerra is to enable and scale up climate change education in California and across the world to reflect the rising urgency of the climate crisis.

We invite you to visit and explore the website, announce its arrival to others in your circles and networks, and give us your feedback to consider as we grow this collaborative network of educators into a global force for climate action solutions and a just transition to a sustainable “next earth” — NXTerra!

Please contact us with your ideas for joining us in this exciting new initiative!

The NXTerra team thanks you for your kind attention.

John Foran, Sarah Jaquette Ray and Richard Widick

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## NEW PROJECTS

### UC-CSU NXTerra: Transformative Education for Climate Action

— continued

ences—with a vision of sharing resources to accelerate climate education and action in California and beyond.

College-level educators in all fields who wish to enable their students to apply their knowledge in innovative ways to real-world problems will find here many resources — syllabi, videos and films, bibliographies of readings, lesson plans, modules, and more — to support them in teaching and collaborating with their students.

This ambitious and wide-ranging project invites everyone to imagine and co-create just transitions to the next Earth by reshaping our relationships with each other and the systems and institutions that determine the quality of life today for communities around the world.

By foregrounding the work of California State University and University of California educators, NXTerra seeks to further the sustainability and environmental literacy initiatives of the California

State University system and the goals of the Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) of the University of California Office of the President (UCOP).

Our combined efforts are aimed at driving the deep culture shift inside our two university systems, and outside, in our global civil society.

**John Foran**, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Sarah Jaquette Ray**, Professor of Environmental Studies, Humboldt State University

**Richard Widick**, Sociologist, Visiting Scholar, Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara



# NEW PROJECTS

## Corruption and Anti-Corruption in Empirical Research: Critical Reflections on Concepts, Data and Methods

Prepared by Ilona Wysmulek

Ilona Wysmulek with the Team has won a **Constructive Advanced Thinking grant of the Institutes for Advanced Studies** that is designed to support interdisciplinary research team of early career researchers.

The grant provides “a team of early career researchers time and space for thought and discussion in the best research environments Europe has to offer. During a period of up to three years, teams will benefit from a series of short stays (i.e. between one and two weeks, two to three times a year) in participating institutes”. More about the application:

<https://ias.ceu.edu/constructive-advanced-thinking-cat>

The project “**Corruption and Anti-Corruption in Empirical Research: Critical Reflections on Concepts, Data and Methods**” aims to address the challenge of sparse communication between the disciplines and strengthen the advantages of interdisciplinary approaches in corruption research, by facilitating an interdisciplinary *Handbook on corruption and anti-corruption in empirical research* with critical reflections on (a) the link between conceptualizations and methodological approaches in studying corruption, (b) limitations and benefits of particular data and methods for corruption research and (c) ethical and security-related issues in applying different methods of researching corruption.

The project team includes:

**Ilona Wysmulek**, PI, Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

**Oksana Huss**, International & Area Studies, Leiden University, Netherlands / Anti-Corruption Research and Education Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Marina Povitkina**, Political Science Quality of Government Institute, Gothenburg, Sweden / University of Oslo, Norway

**Nils Köbis**, Psychology & Economics University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Christopher Starke**, Communication & Philosophy Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf, Germany

The project team will be hosted by:

- ⇒ The Paris Institute for Advanced Study (in May 2020),
- ⇒ the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (Amsterdam),
- ⇒ the Madrid Institute for advanced Study and
- ⇒ the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (Uppsala)

for a series of short stays in 2020-2023.



# WORK IN PROGRESS

## Philanthropy and These Issues in Ivory Coast

Prepared by Jean Claude Kouadio

The contribution of philanthropy to development has been consistently highlighted in recent years in research and by international institutions. This has led to its being considered as an instrument in the service of development. However, this position should not hide all the facets of philanthropy. This is how, in our research on philanthropy in Ivory coast, one of the questions asks about the issues associated with it. Thus, the field made it possible to identify three issues associated with philanthropy.

Philanthropy as a form of solidarity and social protection, through concrete actions of assistance and aids to vulnerable people that local foundations undertake to ensure them the minimum in a society where social insecurity is gaining ground.

Philanthropy as a form of reproduction of the capital of economic elites, through all the manifestations of donation for donation at work in philanthropic actions that are part of the strategies for making the economic elites profitable (T. Depecker et al, 2018) and that suggest that philanthropy is a disguised business.

Philanthropy as an issue of globalization, through the interaction of international foundations with local foundations, through the intervention of certain local foundations in the countries of the sub-region, etc. We show in the wake of L. Tournès (2018), that many things are moving between the global and the local.

### Bibliographical references

Depecker Thomas et al, 2018, « La philanthropie comme investissement. Contribution à l'étude des stratégies de reproduction et de légitimation des élites économiques », Politix, n° 121, p. 9-27

Tournès Ludovic, 2010, « la philanthropie américaine et l'Europe : contribution à une histoire transnationale de l'américanisation », Bulletin de l'Institut Pierre Renouvin, n° 31, p. 173-187.

**Jean Claude Kouadio**  
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# WORK IN PROGRESS

## Black Feminist Thought in the the Natural Hair Movement Study

Prepared by **Cristella Kwizera**

Our thesis is a study of the Natural Hair Movement socio-economic stakes. By stopping chemicals straightening practices, some black women initiated new ones, based on natural products. In fact, the hair phenomenon manifestations in a globalized context, are also, underlining black feminist aspects related to the frizzy/kinky texture acceptance or black aesthetic identities renewal.

Then, the adoption of black feminist theories and practices (H. Collins 2019) is allowing Natural Hair Movement phenomenon analysis, under a transnational prism. Which means, having a common phenotype due to the African ancestry, continental and diasporic black women can experience same cosmetics issues in spite of their cultural backgrounds differences. The movement can be seen as the "Black Is Beautiful" movement renaissance, which, by promoting afro hair, has politicized the issue of black beauty.

As a result, we included historiographical reflection to have more understanding of this past influence on Natural Hair Movement modern aspects. Indeed, in 1920, Annie Malone and Madam CJ Walker, two black women entrepreneurs, created black hair cosmetic brands.

By focusing on women's training, they indicated that women's empowerment linked to black community empowerment. As black women became commercial agents, hairdressers and beauticians, they freed themselves from domestic work.

Moreover, the entrepreneurs' donations contributed to the Civil Rights Movement beginnings in the 1960s. In addition, we opted for the feminist theories regarding

the similarities between our French and east African (Burundi/Kenya) grounds: According to the point of view theory, shared experiences can provide similar angles of vision leading to collective knowledge when from intersectionality theory, race, class and gender systems are constructed features of social organization that shape the black women experiences. In this regard, being an African woman with natural hair, sharing hair experiences facilitated respondents' hair routines access.

Christella Kwizera  
PhD Student /Rennes 2 University  
Under Mrs Ulrike Schuerkens direction

# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## Upcoming event Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14-18, 2020

ISA Forum of Sociology is designed as a mid-term meeting of Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups combined with the Business Meeting of the ISA Research Council. The forthcoming Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology will be organized by Geoffrey Pleyers, current ISA Vice-President Research, in collaboration with the ISA Research Coordinating Committee and the Brazilian Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Hermilio Santos, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

### RC09 presence at ISA Forum 2020

- ⇒ 15 RC09 sessions
- ⇒ Author-meets-critics session
- ⇒ Poster session

**Note: Register before March 19, 2020**

## IV ISA Forum of Sociology



**ISA** International  
Sociological  
Association

IV ISA Forum of  
**SOCIOLOGY**

July 14-18, 2020  
Porto Alegre, Brazil

**PRESENTERS REGISTRATION**  
Deadline March 19, 2020

# RC09 Sessions SCHEDULE Now Online

## RC09 sessions at the ISA Forum of Sociology

July 14 - 18, 2020

- ⇒ [History and Sociology Meet Development and Democracy - part 1 and part 2](#)
- ⇒ [Authors Meet Critics: Samuel Cohn and Rae Blumberg \(eds.\): Gender and Development: The Economic Basis of Women's Power](#)
- ⇒ [Understanding Development: Perspectives from the Global South](#)
- ⇒ [University Training in Social Transformations and Sociology of Development](#)
- ⇒ [Political Economy and Inequality in Development](#)
- ⇒ [Research Frontiers on Gender and Development: Exploring Development, Work and Inequality from an Intersectionality Perspective](#)
- ⇒ [Migration Tendencies in the Global Era](#)
- ⇒ [Whose Voice? How Loud? Who Listens? Political Voice during Social Transformations](#)
- ⇒ [Ecological and Gender Dynamics in Development](#)
- ⇒ [Development Issues in Latin America](#)
- ⇒ [Social Media and Political Mobilisation: Findings and Methodological Challenges](#)
- ⇒ [Innovative Research in the Sociology of Development: Poster Session](#)
- ⇒ [Global Management Practices in Emergent Economies](#)
- ⇒ [The Informal Sector: Interrogating Persistence, Impediments, and Policies](#)
- ⇒ [Redistributive Policies That Target Poverty and Inequalities: Exploration of Socially Inclusive Vs. Socially Corrosive Transformations](#)
- ⇒ [The Infrastructure of Development? China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Global South](#)

### Program Coordinators:

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# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## SASE 2020 Mini-Conference

### Decolonizing “Development”: Theories, Methods and Research

Session organized by Zophia Edwards, Providence College (zedwards@providence.edu) and Julian Go, Boston University (juliango@bu.edu)  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands July 18-20, 2020

In 2019, the Amsterdam Museum announced that it will remove all references to the Dutch “Golden Age” from its galleries, in recognition of the Netherlands’ role in perpetuating colonial brutalities and the transatlantic slave trade. This “decolonization” of the Amsterdam Museum offers an opportunity to also consider the possible “decolonization” of social science. In particular, it offers the opportunity for scholars to more seriously explore the role of colonialism, racism and slavery in capitalist expansion and global development. This mini-conference offers a forum for this critical exploration.

This mini-conference capitalizes on recent developments within social science more broadly. While critical theories and studies of development have existed for decades, starting with Dependency/World-Systems theories and continuing through the “postdevelopment” approaches – manifested in the work of Escobar (1984) and Ferguson (1990) among others – newer “decolonial”, “postcolonial” and “Southern” approaches have emerged in their wake. These paradigms have surfaced in a variety of fields and subfields, including comparative-historical sociology, social theory, political theory and comparative politics. Together they make explicit the Eurocentric, imperial/colonial and often racialized bases of Northern social science and seek critical alternatives, either by reconstructing historical narratives as “entangled” and “connected” or by discovering and critically deploying the knowledge, concepts and theories of postcolonial/Southern thinkers and social movements.

The miniconference will take stock of these recent critical turns and their implications for the study of development. Compared to earlier critical approaches, what if any is the added value of these approaches for understanding social, political and economic development? What are the limits? What theories, concepts and research follow from the recognition of the decolonial/postcolonial critique of knowledge? Theoretical, programmatic, or empirical papers are welcomed. Topics might include but are not restricted to:

- ⇒ legacies of imperialism and colonialism upon development
- ⇒ the colonial gaze and the imperial episteme in development studies
- ⇒ global academic inequality and epistemic inequality
- ⇒ southern/subaltern knowledges, theories, and concepts
- ⇒ decolonial developmental practices and knowledges in international organizations
- ⇒ racialization and developmental projects
- ⇒ Southern and subaltern resistance to Eurocentric development projects
- ⇒ decolonial methods of research
- ⇒ “imperial feedback” and the circulation of technologies and knowledges

# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## Institutional Transformations of Economy and Polity in Post-Communist States, 1990-2020 – Taking Stock, Looking Ahead

Head of the Organization Team: Johanna Paquin, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

Conveners: Prof. Dr. Alexander Ebner, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany and Prof. Dr. Marina Muskhelishvili, Tbilisi State University, Georgia

### International Workshop

Dates: 15-19 June 2020

Location: Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Deadline for abstracts submissions: 15 March 2020

Deadline for paper submissions: 1 June 2020

Three decades after the breakdown of Soviet communism, the historically unique challenge of transforming economy and polity has resulted in diverse patterns of institutional change. Postcommunist system transformation appears as a long-term process of institution-building of political and economic systems. Taking stock after thirty years, the post-communist states exhibit substantial variations in the prevailing sets of formal and informal institutions, designating the wide domain of legal rules and regulations as well as social norms and cultural values that coordinate economy, polity and other fields of society. In this process, various types of political-economic regimes have evolved, combining patterns of authoritarianism and democratic populism with varieties of post-communist market economies characterized by the dominance of state capitalist and oligarchic actors and accompanied by persistent informality.

Indeed, democracy and market economy are not mutually dependent. Indeed, empirical findings on the interdependence of democratization and market reforms in post-communist countries seem to show significant effects of democracy for the support of market reforms, but no reverse effect of market liberalization on the support of democratization. With reference to Karl Polanyi it may be

pointed out that the implementation of market systems finds support in rather authoritarian political structures. Also, informal micro-mechanisms of the institutional order of markets are emerging that complement deficient frameworks of the rule of law and political regulation.

Accordingly, two context-specific and interdependent processes may be differentiated in the institutional transformation of economy and polity in post-communist states. On the one hand, the marketization of the economic field, involving not only the introduction of price-regulated markets but also the establishment of a moral order of competition and commodification that may conflict not only with the weak legal underpinnings of the market system but also with the prevalence of more traditional market-averse value orientations and worldviews. This tension impacts the efficiency of market structures both regarding their top-down design by government and their bottom-up spontaneous ordering by local actors. The high degree of informality in economic affairs underlines this aspect. On the other hand, the democratization of the political field is at hand. Underneath the formal introduction of liberal democratic institutions involving regular elections with multi-party competition, the actually existing political regimes that have emerged mostly exhibit varieties of democratic populism and authoritarianism, all of which have even gained in relevance all over the post-communist world – and beyond. Also, specific patterns of informality characterize the political domain with its often problematic governance struc-

# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## Institutional Transformations of Economy and Polity in Post-Communist States, 1990-2020 – Taking Stock, Looking Ahead

— continued

tures. All of this underlines the importance of historical and evolutionary approaches to institutional change. Aspects such as systemic complementarities and path dependencies within institutional sets need to be acknowledged more explicitly in order to improve our understanding of the dynamics of the post-communist transformations of economy and polity. In exploring these issues, the workshop “Institutional Transformations of Economy and Polity in Post-Communist States, 1990-2020: Taking Stock, Looking Ahead” puts a particular emphasis on experiences and challenges in the South Caucasus, yet of course also Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet states are to be discussed. The workshop is set to discuss both theoretical and empirical studies on the following topics:

- ⇒ The institutional evolution of the varieties and types of post-communist economies and polities, involving their interdependent relationship.
- ⇒ The marketization of post-communist economies, involving the role of rules, norms and values as well as social structures in the evolution of firms, industries, and markets.
- ⇒ The democratization of post-communist polities, involving populist and authoritarian tendencies as well as the interplay of formal and informal governance mechanisms.

To explore these issues, the workshop draws on an interdisciplinary perspective on institutional analyses from all fields of the social sciences and beyond, involving sociology, political science, economics, business, history, anthropology, and geography, among others.

The workshop will take place from 15 to 19 June

2020 at Tbilisi State University in Tbilisi, Georgia. It is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which covers travel and accommodation costs for all invited participants.

Keynote lectures are going to be delivered by: Prof. John Nye, George Mason University, Fairfax and Higher School of Economics, Moscow. Prof. Péter Mihályi, Corvinus University and Central European University, Budapest.

The workshop is open to English-language paper proposals by academics based in Germany, the South Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) as well as Russia and other former Soviet states. Depending on the budget, academics from these countries who are currently working abroad may be eligible, too. Advanced doctoral students are also invited to apply.

Interested academics may send an abstract of circa 500 words to the head of the workshop organization team, **Johanna Paquin** (paquin@soz.uni-frankfurt.de). Abstracts should include the title of the paper, contact details of the author, the research question, a working hypothesis and an overview of the theoretical or empirical argument as well as preliminary conclusions. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **15 March 2020**. The deadline for the submission of preliminary drafts of workshop papers, which will be distributed to all participants is **1 June 2020**. The revised proceedings of the workshop are going to be published in an edited volume with a renowned international publisher in early 2021.

# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## Call for Session Organizers: “1st RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana” and “SMUS Conference” 15 – 21.03.2021

**Deadline: 31.03.2020**

Nina Baur, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Gabriel Faimau, University of Botswana, Botswana

We are happy to announce that the Research Committee on “Logic and Methodology in Sociology” (RC33) of the “International Sociology Association” (ISA) together with the “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS) and the Research Network “Quantitative Methods” (RN21) of the European Sociology Association” (ESA) will organize a “**1st RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana**” which will at the same time be the “**1st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability**” (“**SMUS Conference**”) from Monday 15.03 – Sunday 21.03.2021, hosted by the University of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana. The main conference days will be from Thursday 18.03. – Saturday 20.03.2021. There will be travel grants GCSMUS members and African scholars can apply for.

The seven-days conference aims at **promoting a global dialogue on methods** and should attract **methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences** (e.g. area studies, architecture, communication studies, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning). Additionally, the conference programme will include advanced methodological training courses, Ph.D. workshops and a social programme. Thus, the conference will enable scholars to get in contact with methodologists from various disciplines all over the world and to deepen discussions with researchers from various methodological angles.

With this mission, we **invite scholars of all social and spatial sciences** and other scholars who are interested into methodological discussions **to suggest a session topic**. Conference sessions should mainly address a methodological problem. All sessions on general issues of social science methodology and epistemology as well as on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches are equally welcome. In addition, we especially invite scholars to suggest session topics on one of the following issues:

- ⇒ spatial methods and analysis
- ⇒ cross-cultural methods and issues of comparability
- ⇒ decolonizing social science methodology
- ⇒ methods of and for the Global South
- ⇒ methodological issues relevant for specific world regions (e.g. Africa, America, Asia, Europe)
- ⇒ monitoring and evaluation methods and analysis
- ⇒ research methods on urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning
- ⇒ arts- and design-based methods
- ⇒ participatory and action research methods
- ⇒ interdisciplinary and collaborative research methods
- ⇒ big data, digital methods and cross-disciplinary research
- ⇒ methods for values research, global wellbeing and sustainability
- ⇒ methods for analysis of space and social inequality (e.g. space and class, gendered spaces, space and age, space and race)



# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## Call for Session Organizers: “1st RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana” and “SMUS Conference” 15 – 21.03.2021

**Deadline: 31.03.2020**

— continued

If you are interested in organizing a session, please submit an abstract containing the following information to ([botswana2021@mes.tu-berlin.de](mailto:botswana2021@mes.tu-berlin.de)) by **31.03.2020**:

- ⇒ Session Title
- ⇒ Session Organizers (Name, Email-Address, Institutional Affiliation)
- ⇒ Session Abstract (containing a short description of the session and the type of papers you want to be submitted to the session).

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of submission within three working days, please resend your submission. The conference organizers will inform you, if your session has been accepted, by 13.04.2020. Please note that all sessions apply to the **rules of session organization** named in the RC33 statutes and GCSMUS Objectives (**see below**).

Please find more information on the above institutions on the following websites:

“Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS):

[www.mes.tu-berlin.de/spatialmethods](http://www.mes.tu-berlin.de/spatialmethods)

ISA RC33: <http://rc33.org/>

ESA RN21: [www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods](http://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods)

University of Botswana in Gaborone: [www.ub.bw](http://www.ub.bw)

If you are interested in getting **further information on the conference** (such as Calls for Abstracts) and other GCSMUS activities, please **subscribe to the GCSMUS newsletter** by registering via the following website:

<https://lists.tu-berlin.de/mailman/listinfo/mes-smusnews>

Please also kindly **forward this information to anybody to whom it might be of interest**.

Best wishes,

Nina Baur, RC33 Past President and GCSMUS Speaker, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Gabriel Faimau, GCSMUS Botswana Lead Partner, University of Botswana, Botswana

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Harmonized International Social Survey Data Available

Prepared by Kazimierz M. Slomczynski

The Survey Data Recycling (SDR) project has deposited master data files with full documentation for accessing and using for cross-national analyses. In SDR.1 version, survey data are derived from 22 well-known international social survey projects and include 1,721 national surveys covering 142 countries between 1966 and 2013 combined with national attribute statistics. The harmonized variables are especially relevant for those studying comparative social stratification, population change, protest and political participation. Documentation and data files in version SDR.1 are available for download at Harvard Dataverse:

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/sdr>

Currently the SDR.2 project is sponsored by the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, the Dept. of Sociology, Ohio State University, and

the Polish Academy of Sciences, and it is directed by K. Maciek Slomczynski, Irina Tomescu-Dubrow and J. Craig Jenkins. Drawing on National Science Foundation funding (#1738502), SDR.2 will deposit for public access an extended dataset for ca. 3,500 national surveys with harmonized variables pertaining to political participation, social capital and well-being. An overview of the methodological approach is available at several publications available at

<https://www.asc.ohio-state.edu/dataharmonization/publications/>.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Samuel Cohn: Global Social Trends - Website and Twitterfeed

Prepared by Samuel Cohn

Samuel Cohn is running a “public intellectual” development sociology website and twitterfeed.

The website is Samuel Cohn: Global Social Trends. <https://www.samuelcohn.net/>

The twitterfeed is [@Samuel\\_\\_Cohn](https://twitter.com/Samuel__Cohn). (There are TWO underlines there. There are apparently so many Samuel Cohns on the internet that I need two underlines to have my own feed.)

The website contains such essays as

- ⇒ Social Democratic Development
- ⇒ Islands of Non-Corruption
- ⇒ Business and Organized Violence in Latin America
- ⇒ Why Tax Cuts Don't Create Jobs

and the Website's signature piece:

- ⇒ All Societies Die.

The Twitterfeed covers a wide variety of development, social and economic issues, generally from a progressive standpoint.

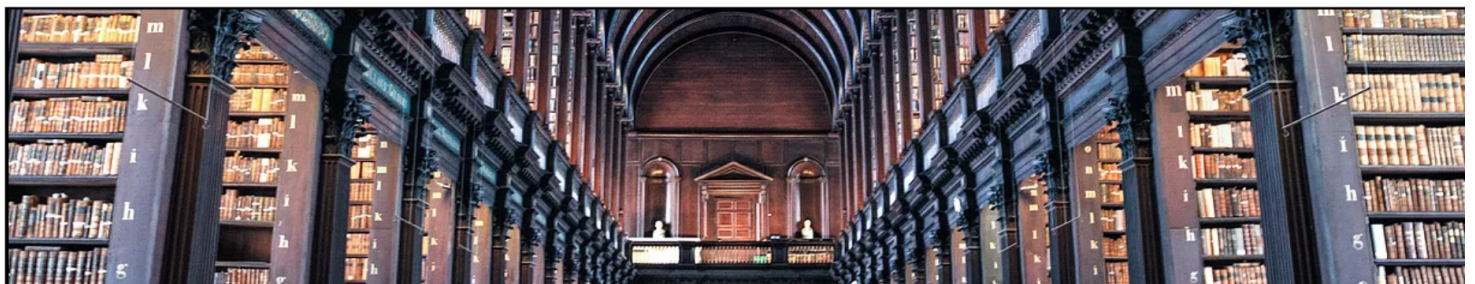
On the website, I cover a lot of work by other scholars on the website. (Recent articles include rave reviews of Erin McDonnell, a junior scholar at Notre Dame, and William Easterly, a fantastic eminence gris at NYU.

The website also has slots for guest scholars who want to contribute their own pieces.

If you think there is material I ought to be reviewing on that website, or you would actually like to do a thinkpiece yourself, let me know.

In the meantime, check both the website and twitterfeed out!

There is a lot of unusual stuff there!



# SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

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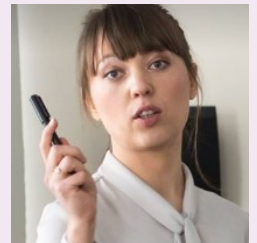
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