

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

If this issue had a theme, it would be Conferences: Past and Future. If you missed one of our two midterm conferences—“Inequality beyond globalization” in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, or the First ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, Spain—we’re pleased to provide some intellectually engaging conference reports in this issue. I owe warm thanks to our many contributors for their meticulous reports crackling with ideas.

Two years have passed since our last World Congress in South Africa, an occasion when many of us traveled to learn more about the new South Africa. Johann Maree, Professor of Sociology at the University of Cape Town, is currently working on two projects on work in his country. He has kindly written a short piece on this topic that you can find beginning on page three.

We have one remaining conference scheduled before the next World Congress. This will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria. Please see the Call for Papers on the next page.

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INEQUALITY08 CONFERENCE REPORT Inequality Beyond Globalization: Economic Changes and the Dynamics of Inequality

“Inequality beyond globalization” – the RCO2 midterm conference in Neuchâtel, Switzerland (June 26-28, 2008), successfully evaluated the status and prospects of research in the development of social inequalities after the decade of globalization discourse. Seven plenary and 18 workshop sessions connected 130 researchers from more than 30 countries. Due to generous support, especially by travel grants for participants from Africa, Asia, Latin-America and Eastern Europe

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FIRST ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY Rethinking the Role of Economic Sociology in Late Capitalism: Report on Economic Sociology as Critique

Introduction: Sociological Research and Public Debate on Agenda
Questioning the purpose and the role of sociology is an inherent part of sociological enterprise. A recent wave of rethinking sociology and its position in the world which took place during the last decade has come with the idea of ‘public sociology’ advocated by Michael Burawoy. Burawoy’s powerful assertion of the four sociologies, professional, policy, critical, and public, and his claim that public sociology is vital for the future

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provided by the Swiss-based World Society Foundation and the Swiss Sociological Association, one fourth of the papers originated from societies beyond the Western core (the conference papers are posted on the conference website, see at <http://www2.unine.ch/inequality08>).

The conference opened with plenary lectures by Branko Milanovic (World Bank) and Arthur S. Alderson (Indiana) who presented reminders on the state of the art in global income inequality measurement. Milanovic presented results from the ongoing project on individual income inequality in the world ('inequality among world citizens', as Francois Bourgoignon once took it): we will all remember his description how Brazil almost completely covers the world income distribution, including both (almost) the richest and the poorest world citizens, or his borrowing from literary texts, to describe income distribution in the 19th century. These insights were paralleled by those of Anthony Shorrocks (UNU, Helsinki) who, later, opened the second day with a precise description of the changing patterns of global wealth ownership, and corresponded to Milanovic in the stressing of the importance of new incomes and fortunes in emerging societies such as China and Russia. An unexpected twist of Shorrocks lay in the hint that, after correcting for GDP growth and exchange rates, the highest rise in fortunes was in the five large conservative welfare states (Germany, Italy, France, Spain, and the Netherlands) and Australia, while Japan and even Taiwan fell behind in that regard.

Alderson presented the state of his research on the income developments in different income strata which recently spread from earlier work on core societies to the analysis of semi-peripheral countries, showing that even income inequality is definitely more than just Gini-coefficients.

A session on new concepts of inequality showed the high level, but equally high complexity and diversity of recent inequality understanding. Sylvia Walby

CALL FOR PAPERS

Markets as Networks

DATE: 25-26 September 2009

SITE: Sofia University, Department of Sociology, Sofia, Bulgaria

ORGANISER: ISA, RC02 "Economy and Society", the Department of Sociology, University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the Bulgarian Sociological Association

TOPICS: The conference aims at reviewing the major conceptual tools that economic sociology has proposed to understand the various forms of interplay between markets and network structures. How are markets socially constructed via networks, whether markets are social networks? How can networks of individuals and firms serve as a competitive advantage on the market? As a context, of interest here is market opening and closing as an interaction of global orders and national traditions. Globalization is primarily geared toward the opening of markets. However, open markets produce tensions and crises, whose settlement involves new forms of closure through re-regulation on a transnational level. In this way, national forms of market order are under pressure of adjustment.

How do these macro-processes influence the formation, maintenance and dissolution of networks of market players? How do the corporations build their networks and what is their effect on national (dis)integrity in particular? What kind of networks form and maintain small entrepreneurs? How is their development connected to the migration streams in the global world and what is the specific role of family networks? The expectation is to study how the interaction of processes located at different levels of institutionalization produces new, more open and more flexible market and network structures. The important focus is expected to be the theoretical clarification of the very concept of network and the way in which network mechanisms generate social capital. Social capital is seen here as competitive advantage on the market which has network origins. Related focus of interest is on information as a core of intersection between market and network: how and under what circumstances the structure of prior relations among people and organisations in a market can affect, or replace, the flow of market information and what can people do with it? The network mechanisms such as contagion (imitation), prominence (reputation), closure, brokerage, etc. should be explored.

Topics: - The Concept of Network; Network Formation, Maintenance and Dissolution: the Network Structure of Social Capital; Markets as Social Networks; - Small Entrepreneurship, Family Networks and Migration in a Globalizing World; - Corporation in Networks – National (Dis)Integrity?; - Different Market Routes – Different Networks. The general objective of the conference is to attract papers reporting on recent empirical research, theoretical contributions and, of course, good combinations of the two.

LANGUAGE: English

FEE: 80 € and is payable upon arrival or via bank transfer (For details see conference registration form on the website.) For early bird registration until 1 May 2009: 50 € Limited grants available for young researchers and also scholars from CEE can apply for a fee waiver and contribution to their travel expenses.

DEADLINE: March 1, 2009. The abstracts should not exceed 500 words. Please send an abstract using the form on the website and also a short CV with a list of publications. Information on acceptance will be sent to participants at the end of March 2009. The final deadline for papers is set for 5th of September 2009.

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(Lancaster/GB) traced the influence of globalization on the complexity of recent inequalities, while Manuela Boatca (Eichstätt/D) challenged the notion of 'new' inequalities by uncovering traces of old vertical structures in the globalized reality, and Bettina Mahlert (Bielefeld/D) discussed the insights which the neo-institutionalist theory of world polity adds to the study of global inequality. Gertraude Mikl-Horke (Vienna) added her understanding of a new dichotomy between actors and subjects in economic change.

In the session on persistence and changes in inequalities, two European

both for Germany and Great Britain. Contrasting to these dynamics, Pascale Gazareth and Christian Suter (Neuchâtel, Switzerland) were able to show the importance of cultural deprivation, i.e. the existence or non-existence of culturally accepted living standards as dish washers, as a measure of social inequality, while noting a remarkable stability over the five years under study.

The third and fourth plenary lectures combined two known experts of inequalities in the respective world regions of their study: Evelyn Huber (North Carolina) on Latin America and Nina Bandelj (Irvine) on the East European



Work in South Africa

Paid work in South Africa is very different from paid work in the rest of Africa, especially Sub-Saharan Africa. Whereas most paid work in Africa is informal, a remarkably small proportion of it is informal in South Africa. Informal work is work that is not regulated in any way. Informal enterprises are ones that do not register nor do they abide by any of the country's labour regulations. It has puzzled economists and sociologists why there is so little informal employment in South Africa when there is such vast unemployment in the country.

Before trying to answer this socio-economic puzzle it is necessary to back it up with evidence. It has been reliably estimated that no less than 72% of non-agricultural employment in Sub-Saharan Africa is informal. If South Africa is excluded the share of informal employment rises to 78%. This is because informal employment in South Africa is so small. The informally employed in South Africa constitute only 16% of the labour force. This is the case in spite of the fact that "broad" unemployment in South Africa stands at an astonishingly high 43%. Broad unemployment includes discouraged workers in the labour force, that is, it includes adults who are willing and able to work, but have given up looking for work because they have become discouraged. The "narrow" or standard definition of unemployment excludes discouraged workers from the labour force.

The extremely high level of unemployment

For transition countries, Bandelj showed that the transition from socialism to capitalism does not inevitably lead to major upsurges in inequality

and two Latin American papers added to knowledge and understanding the session's topic in rather different ways: Luis Bértola (Uruguay) presented results on the income distribution in Latin America from 1870 to 1930 showing the increase in social inequality both within and between nations during the first globalization boom. The other paper from Latin America, presented by Laura Ariovich and Pablo Gutierrez condensed the existing (but to a large extent hidden) literature on individual trajectories following lay-offs during two distinct periods in Argentina, showing how the situation of fired workers became both more insecure and more dependent on individual strategies from the 1980s to the 1990s. This result in a way parallels the one of Johannes Giesecke and Roland Verwiebe (Germany) who found that in individual Mincer-type income regressions from the mid-1980s onwards, over time income depends more on where one works (the EGP class position) than what qualification she has (by education scale),

transformation countries. Based on nearly 200 unbalanced WIID observations of inequality from 21 countries, Huber showed that forces to increase Latin American inequality were FDI inflows, the growth of informal employment, and liberalizations of markets and trade, with clear time trends, but not in all cases significant effects. At the same time, education and social spending in democratic societies, as well as decreasing sector dualism, had clear effects but only a modest time change. For transition countries, Bandelj showed that the transition from socialism to capitalism does not inevitably lead to major upsurges in inequality, since postsocialist states that made political choices to preserve a larger state sector limit FDI penetration and keep individualist orientations in check with institutional provisions for social protection, experienced less income inequality after the collapse of communism than did their counterparts.

The late morning session on the second day attempted to answer the question,

why exactly income inequality had risen. Three answers were presented. Hanno Scholtz (Zurich, Switzerland), studying skewness trends of income distributions, compared the expected evolutions of skewness resulting from globalization-driven income inequality with that of a second model based on the assumption of some diffusion process occurring. He could show that the LIS data strongly support the diffusion model, which gives some hope with regard to the further prospect. Daniela Rohrbach (Cologne, Germany) studied the effects of sector bias and sector dualism and could show that the often-theorized effect of the knowledge society on inequality indeed exists. Christopher Kollmeyer (Aberdeen) substantiated the consequences of global trade, especially with regard to deindustrialization.

The workshop on inequalities in education opened with Raphaela Schlicht and Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen (Konstanz, Germany), showing in a multi-level analysis of current EU member countries with national contexts that have a strong effect on education inequalities. This general insight was further specified by national studies presented by Andreas Hadjar (Berne) on West Germany, George Waardenburg (Fribourg, Switzerland) on Switzerland and Maocan Guo (Harvard) on China. The discussion, involving amongst others the president of Swiss Sociological Association, Christoph Maeder, brought a lot of institutional detail into the comparative study of educational inequality.

Discussing globalization impacts, Jeffrey Kentor (Utah), based on a panel of less developed countries for 1990-2005, studied the relation between globalization, income inequality, and internal violence. Karen Rasler and William R Thompson (Indiana) found that globalization in both waves before WWI and up to now was a driver of global divergence, while only the between-wars-contraction fostered global convergence.

Workshop 3B, under the general rubric of “institutions”, addressed a broad range of state policies and their impacts on

social inequality. It brought together presenters from an equally broad range of world regions. Having lived in and conducted research on such diverse regions as Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa, India, Western and Central Europe, and the United States, the paper gives drew inspiring comparisons between the case studies discussed in the presentations and the realities in other world regions. Beginning with Gert Verschraegen and Rika Verpoorten’s study of formal and informal social protection, the workshop first focused on Sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing on an insightful discussion of the relative merits of formal (state based) and informal (family and community based) forms of insurance and social protection arrangements, the authors, both affiliated

providing formal democracy is not enough to reduce intra-national economic income inequality; formal democracy needs to be complemented by measures that pro-actively foster the political participation of the disadvantaged

with the University of Leuven, Belgium, argued for a balanced mix of both, formal and informal types of social protection mechanisms. They made it clear, however, that such a balanced mix is difficult to achieve, as formal development plans and social protection programs tend to interfere with, and not necessarily supplement, informal social protection arrangements. With the second presentation, the focus then shifted to two cities in Egypt and India. In a comparative case study of these two cities, Dalia Wahdan from the University of Pune, India, analyzed the spatial dimensions of social inequality and the role of mass transport systems in reproducing these inequalities. Her presentation demonstrated how, in a process of recurrent structuration, existing inequalities both shape and are shaped by the highly selective provision of public transportation and laws regulating private mass transport. Finally, Joshua Dubrow from the Polish Academy

of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland, investigated the relationship between economic inequality and measures of political participation and empowerment. In his quantitative cross-national comparison, the author showed that levels of political participation of the socio-economically disadvantaged classes are only moderately correlated with levels of formal democracy as measured by the Freedom House index. What is more, levels of political participation turned out to have a negative effect on economic inequality that works independently of the effect of formal democracy. In sum, the contributions in this inspiring workshop took seriously the suggestion made by Evelyne Huber in the fourth plenary lecture that while studying intra-national, interna-

tional, and global inequality, one must not forget to have a close look at the still significant role of states. The presentations demonstrated that providing formal democracy is not enough to reduce intra-national economic income inequality; formal democracy needs to be complemented by measures that pro-actively foster the political participation of the disadvantaged. Even in democracies such as India and Egypt, public infrastructure tends to cater to the interests of the socially advantaged, thereby reproducing existing inequalities. In Sub-Saharan Africa, state-based social welfare programs, while distorting community-based forms of social protection, are ill suited to address the needs of the unemployed and those working in the informal economy.

In the session on changes on the labour market, Sebastien Chauvin (Paris, France), based on the results of an ethnographic study led in Chicago day labour agencies, emphasised the inequal-

SASE's 21st Annual Meeting

(Society for the Advancement of Socio-economics)
Science Po Paris, France

FOR CALL
PAPERS

JULY 16-18, 2009

Capitalism in Crisis: What's Next? Economic Regulation and Social Solidarity After the Fall of Finance Capitalism

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PAPERS IS JANUARY 15, 2009. FOR DETAILS GO TO:
WWW.SASE.ORG

To paraphrase the ancient Chinese curse, we have the questionable privilege of living in interesting times. As the recent financial crisis made agonizingly clear, the future of capitalism is up for grabs and, at a minimum, the years of neoliberal triumph have come to an end. One craves a lantern at this dark and troubling moment, and the 2009 annual conference of the Society of the Advancement of Socio-Economics will provide illumination into the crisis and its aftermath.

First, we encourage scholars to explore the causes for the current economic decline and their implications for modes of regulating advanced capitalist economies. What has been the impact of globalization without regulation and does the current crisis signal a death knell for laissez-faire capitalism? How have different countries and regions attempted to manage the transition to post-industrial capitalism and what models have worked best to weather the current economic upheaval? What will be the role of the state and political contestation in the transition to a new regulatory regime and in managing post-financial, post-industrial capitalism?

Second, we welcome contributions that consider whether economic efficiency can be reconciled with social solidarity under the new rules of capitalist competition. Institutional arrangements supporting managed capitalism have been challenged by new market pressures, neo-liberal ideology, and economic, social and political uncertainties. What is the future for the social and political institutions that support egalitarian forms of capitalism? How do contemporary developments resonate with historical turning points that gave rise to the development of key social and political institutions? We also welcome contributions that compare evolving forms of capitalism in developing and transition societies, and papers that contrast institutional development in these countries with changes in developed countries. Scholars might choose to investigate the challenges posed by globalization, the transition to a service economy, immigration, financial integration (and disintegration), and religious or ethnic strife – and to explore how various institutional realms at the national and international levels interact and respond to contemporary challenges.

Finally, while the literature on “models” or “varieties” of capitalism is vast, it has paid little attention to the dynamics of change in contemporary capitalism and, rather, has identified distinctive – yet static – constellations that are linked to varied political and policy outcomes. The enormous problems we face in the twenty-first century require scholars to move beyond the traditional comparative-statics “comfort zone” of institutional analysis. We invite scholars to bring insights from their specific empirical studies to develop new concepts and tools for analyzing institutional change today.

ity of resources available to three specific categories of temporary workers which he labelled ‘casual’, ‘regular’ and ‘perma’ temps, when it comes to face the growing uncertainty on the labour market. Also based on a qualitative study, Felix Bühlmann (Lausanne, Switzerland) identified four types of achievement careers in the new capitalism, which he named the ‘threatened’, the ‘broken’, the ‘surfers’, and the ‘icaruses’. These two qualitative papers certainly contributed to opening interesting avenues for reflection in the “typological” literature. The other two papers mobilised quantitative methodologies. Johannes Giesecke and Michael

the ‘threatened’, the ‘broken’, the ‘surfers’, and the ‘icaruses’

Gebel (Berlin, Germany) focused on the institutional settings of the labour market (esp. employment protection legislation, regulation for temporary contracts, and collective bargaining coverage) and their impact on the proportion of temporary work among low-skilled workers. Interestingly, and in contrast to insider-outsider analyses, they evidenced that a stricter regulation on temporary contracts resulted in a decreasing risk for low-educated workers to get temporary contracts (rather than stable ones). Finally, John Western and Jenny Chesters (Brisbane, Australia) focused on the impact of globalisation and neoliberal policies on wealth and income inequality in Australia. They showed the discrepancy between facts (modest increase in inequality) and their perceptions by the Australian people.

The session on “Knowledge, communication and inequality” brought together in-depth case studies. Deepti Shanker (Guwahati, India) described the spread

of ICT in rural India, which allowed for a between-continent comparison with Emmanuel Afolayan (Ibadan, Nigeria), who focused on the digital divide between urban and rural Nigeria. Based on a study mobilising qualitative and quantitative methodologies (a rather successful attempt to combine both), he identified the lack of infrastructure, the high cost, and electricity shortage as the main factors accounting for this divide.

cational qualifications have led to a certain devaluation of these qualifications. Though large gaps between the different levels remain, the effect of educational attainment on the likelihood of avoiding unskilled jobs has grown smaller. Parallel to this trend, ascriptive characteristics such as nationality have become more significant, whereas gender inequality has decreased. The second paper, focusing on the situation of economically disadvan-

hung, Taiwan) analyzed the development and structure of a global Pan-Chinese network of breast cancer survivors that helps its members cope with the consequences of their illness and overcome processes of social exclusion. While other papers mainly focused on the role of state programs and labor market integration, this last paper discussed the importance of social capital as created by civil society organizations, demonstrating both the

Steven Sek-yum Ngai demonstrated that public assistance in Hong Kong, when combined with the use of public service centers, has considerable positive effects on socially disadvantaged young people

Kari Paakkulainen (Helsinki, Finland) attempted to explore the links between what he named the increasing openness of post-national politics and the use of Internet and ICT. His contribution drew on a rather original comparison between Korea, the European Union, and Japan.

A workshop on integration into the labor market, diverse with regard both to regional provenience and the topics addressed, led to remarkably stimulating discussions. Analyzing the situation of socially vulnerable and stigmatized groups, the papers were concerned with, on the one hand, the role of the state in helping these groups become (re)integrated into the labor market and, on the other hand, the growing transnational organization of self-help and pressure groups. Juan Ignacio Martínez-Pastor and Fabrizio Bernardi (Madrid, Spain) investigated the factors affecting the likelihood of young Spaniards occupying unskilled jobs. Drawing on the Spanish Labor Force Survey, the authors found that, over the last three decades, the share of young people occupying unskilled jobs has decreased. This decrease, however, is largely due to a relative decline of jobs in agriculture. Increases in the proportion of youngsters having high levels of edu-

cated youngsters in Hong Kong, analyzed the effects of public assistance programs and service provision. Steven Sek-yum Ngai (Hong Kong, China) demonstrated that public assistance, when combined with the use of public service centers, has considerable positive effects on socially disadvantaged young people. Consequently, the following plenary discussion raised the question of what distinguishes social assistance and service programs in Hong Kong from less successful programs elsewhere and to what extent these programs could serve as model cases for other countries. Ieva Pranka (Riga, Latvia) addressed problems related to the labor market integration of HIV-infected groups and HIV-infection risk groups. Even though structural conditions in Latvia are surprisingly conducive to HIV-infected persons (shortage of qualified labor, state law forbidding employers to inquire about applicants' health), unemployment among HIV-infection risk groups is high. As explanation, Pranka pointed not to social stigmatization of HIV-infected persons, but to the high prevalence of HIV-infections among drug users, unregistered sex workers, and persons with low levels of educational qualifications. Finally, Hao Wang (Taic-

opportunities and risks created by transnational network-building.

In a workshop on attitudes towards inequality and redistribution, the still-growing interest in how inequalities are perceived and evaluated was addressed by Antonio Jaime Castillo (Granada, Spain). He argued that controlling for subjective expectations of social mobility renders any measures of objective expectations in that regard insignificant – an argument that, while at the moment still inhibited by the use of a too-simple matrix for objective evaluations, was in line with Ursula Dallinger's (Trier, Germany) findings on the missing relation between inequality and demand for redistribution and even with Volker Bornschier's remarks in the concluding session that norms, expectations and therefore public discourse have almost disentangled social inequality from political action. As this leaves its mark in the behavior both of individual workers and political actors was demonstrated, respectively, by Martina Rebien's (Nuremberg, Germany) evidence that Germany's workers are increasingly disposed to accept worse working conditions, and Anne-Vaïa Fouradoulas' (Fribourg, Switzerland) analysis of the new discord between leftist Swiss political

organizations in their strategies regarding globalization.

The concluding roundtable “The Future of Global Inequality” started with an input by Volker Borschier (Zurich, Switzerland), which connected back to Milanovic and Alderson in the opening plenary, presenting a picture of trends in global inequality, both within and between countries. He pointed towards the importance of politics and policy, later on supported by Evelyne Huber.

Most U.S. sociologists are Rawlsians in the sense that they care only for “unjust” inequality which is attributable to discrimination

Effects of politics and policy have been strong: Colonialism was the base for current inequality in many parts of the world, as well as post-WWII policies in East Asia which reduced inequality. In advanced industrial societies, all welfare states redistribute income downward. With regard to the global inequality situation, Latin America is ahead on the democratic road compared to the rest of the developing world, and the question is whether democracy will stabilize in Latin America and whether it will take hold in large parts of Asia and Africa as well. Current work on democracy suggests that strengthening civil societies are good for democracy, and the spread of industrialization, urbanization, and information is good for civil society. So, as development proceeds, a strengthening of democracy

can be expected, and once democracy is achieved, the underprivileged may organize, even though that radical redistributive attempts in Latin America have failed.

But in the recent situation, as Arthur Alderson stated, there is no real tendency toward unconditional convergence in levels of inequality. There are large and persistent level-differences such that, in a context in which inequality is increasing in many countries, countries are not converging on a common level of inequality. In explaining these persistent level-differences, institutional factors obviously play a key role. Alderson centered more on institutions than on politics. Differing from Huber, he was more pessimistic based on the U.S. situation where labor movement and the left have had no strategy for the last three decades with regard to deindustrialization, globalization, and the liberal turn.

A third point was an attempt of the philosophical bases of the study of inequality. Most U.S. sociologists are Rawlsians in the sense that they care only for “unjust” inequality which is attributable to discrimination. But, as Alderson stated, if research views “justified disparities” as unproblematic, or requiring no further analysis, this leads to a dead end. However, recent research in medical sociology and elsewhere has begun to document the ways in which inequality has profound effects, whether meritocratically-generated or not.

The conference was embedded in a cosmos of social events from the welcome reception of the Department of Sociology of the University of Neuchâtel with the common “public viewing” and the betting game of one European football championship semi final (Russia-Spain) over a great conference dinner, housed in a building of former asylum-givers to Jean Jacques Rousseau, to a final boat tour on the lakes around Neuchâtel, which allowed us to deepen global discussions beyond inequality, and to tie the participants and RC02 members together in one common experience.

During the conference dinner the Word

Society Foundation announced the three winners of its Award Program 2008 (1st prize: \$10000, 2nd prizes: \$5000):

- Daniela Rohrbach (Bonn, Germany) for the paper “Sector Bias and Sector Dualism: The Knowledge Society and Inequality” (1st prize)
- Jason Beckfield (Harvard) for the paper “Remapping Inequality in Europe: The Net Effect of Regional Integration on Total Income Inequality in the European Union (2nd prize)
- Timothy P. Moran (SUNY-Stony Brooks) and Roberto Korzeniewicz (Maryland) for the paper “Rethinking Inequality: A World-historical Perspective” (2nd prize)

The UEFA Euro 2008 betting game, finally, clearly demonstrated that sociologists are unlucky gamblers – despite the workshop on “inequalities in football” (held just before the public viewing) with the contribution of Hanspeter Stamm (Zurich, Switzerland) on “how to know the winner before the game starts” showing that there are two main factors explaining success in international football (size and GDP per capita). None of the participants could predict the correct result (3:0 for Spain) – although an Argentine colleague was very close with his tip of 3:1. The betting game committee, therefore, decided to give the whole prize money to charities (the WWF).

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cont'd from page 1: Rethinking the Role of the discipline and for the promotion of democratic civil society, has certainly found resonance among fellow sociologists. After a number of stimulating presentations, debates, journal symposia, and conferences comes the 1st ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona. September 5-8 of 2008 were the days when sociologists from around the world came together for a gathering which had as its

umbrella topic *Sociological Research and Public Debate*.

The Forum may well have been called *Forum for Public Sociology*: the idea permeated the forum, evident in the very subject line as well as the structure of the program and the agenda of the plenary and common sessions. To be sure, all three plenary sessions were devoted to discussions of how sociology should emplace itself in what may for convenience be termed the public spheres of contemporary world (and there certainly are many); the closing session had Michael Burawoy, Alberto Martinelli and Alain Touraine as speakers and these names speak for themselves.

Whatever importance we ascribe to the statements of the general problems and to science-wide discussions, any idea is relatively fruitless if it does not become operational. That is, if it does not with time come down to the particular issues and workings of manifold fields and disciplines within science (in this case, the science of sociology). It was most interesting for me to witness a number of instances at the Forum where it did. (There were more as I already hear from my colleagues' recollections of the sessions I was not attending; and the Forum was truly enormous in size with more than 2500 registered delegates.)

I will report on one such instance which I found particularly illuminating. It is the session on *Economic Sociology as Critique* of Research Committee 02 *Economy and Society*. It was openly concerned with one of the crucial tasks for public sociology, the task of critique. The session was chaired by Andrew Sayer of Lancaster University (UK) and consisted of the presentations by Sayer, Sylvia Walby, Michael Burawoy and John Holmwood (in order of presentation). For the convenience of the reader I will first give summaries of their speeches and then offer my own short reflection on the session.

The Four Presentations

The session opened with the presentation of Andrew Sayer on the topic of the

session, *Economic Sociology as Critique*. Sayer challenged the dominant new economic sociology using the notion of critique. Critique, he asserted, is often reduced, to mere 'being reflexive about one's scientific practice'. Some reject critique altogether by appealing to Hume's 'is-ought' distinction, and the argument that evaluative descriptions (such as references to 'exploitation') cannot be deduced from facts. Others argue values are merely subjective and run counter to objective 'factual' description. Sayer questioned the is-ought distinction by arguing that 'the force of the ought' is not about logical relations but about being, about needs and well-being. He

and on the possibility of its conceiving without recourse to postmodernist rejection. She suggested that there are four broad alternative conceptions of progress currently on the agenda of social and economic science. These are: economic development and growth; equality; human rights; and human development, well-being and capabilities. Walby discussed the last approach stemming from the work of Amartya Sen and his distinction between capabilities – opportunities and substantive freedoms to choose, and functionings – things and outcomes. The alternative interpretations of these notions lie at the heart of a range of initiatives such as UN Development Project

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also argued that some important social phenomena could only be adequately described using thick ethical terms like 'oppressive' or 'cruel' or 'benevolent'. Therefore critique of practices is necessary for social scientific description and explanation, serving as its motive and guiding principle. Sayer further applied these arguments to economic sociology, stating that it often equates (moral) norms with mere conventions about coordinated action. This leads to the ignorance about those moral norms and conceptions of good, that constitute and legitimate economic institutions. Sayer concluded by arguing that critique and valuation about human well-being should be intrinsic to economic sociology that seeks to be a critical social science.

Sylvia Walby, also of Lancaster University, in a talk on *Contested Futures of Economy and Society* elaborated on the problem of contested notion of progress

(UNDP), UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA). Walby has offered a critique of these interpretations, suggesting that UNDP and MDG are oriented at the outcomes while HDCA focuses on capabilities and choice. In her opinion, capabilities-oriented approach neglects the problem of 'adaptive preferences' and generally hinders the potential of the complex progressive agendas of UNDP and MDG. In her concluding remarks Walby suggested that it is extremely important to consider in addition to well-being and capabilities, the broad agenda of equality.

The third presenter, Michael Burawoy, of University of California at Berkeley, USA, spoke on *Two Roads from Polanyi: Economic Sociology versus Public Sociology*. Burawoy advocated a critical vision for economic sociology by drawing on Karl Polanyi and exploring the two ways

in which his work can be developed. These pathways are a terrain of contestation and debate. In what Burawoy termed 'Polanyi-1' way economic sociology (which, in Burawoy's opinion, developed in the US as a response to Marxism of 1970s) posits itself as the study of social embeddedness of market economy. This position, according to Burawoy, is that of offering the economists a better, sociologically augmented standpoint in their analysis. To this 'tamed' version of Polanyi Burawoy contrasted a 'Polanyi-2' way. In this second development, 'historical and dynamic' Polanyi is drawn on as a powerful critic of commodification and market fundamentalism. Burawoy further expanded on Polanyi's seminal *Great Transformation* argument on commodification of land and suggested that

we are currently going through the 'Third Wave of Marketization'. This Third Wave fundamentally leads to the commodification of nature and environment. Burawoy suggested that the experience of commodification is more obvious and more pressing than the experience of exploitation and therefore it also brings about the potential for resistance and emergence of civil society. The challenge for economic sociology, according to Burawoy, is in adopting the standpoint of 'Polanyi-2', the standpoint of civil society, and hence becoming the true critical social science. During the discussion Burawoy suggested that sociology should address the publics in their own languages (and not in a presumably universal language of science both in the sense of scientific concepts and in the sense of English as an 'international'

language of science).

The last presentation, *Citizenship and Markets Revisited: 'Neo-Liberalism' and 'Neo-Progressivism'* by Michael Holmwood, of University of Birmingham, UK, challenged the widespread view that capitalism necessarily entails a totalizing system where economic logic spans all relations of production and consumption. Holmwood attempted to reassert the possibility of progressive politics by exploring how socialism and social relations constitute a particular actual history alongside and in connection with capitalism and economic relations, rather than being the utopian alternative. Holmwood started from a critique of contemporary neo-Marxian and neo-Weberian class analyses that attempt to show either that class need not necessarily be



CRESC Annual Conference

2 - 4 SEPTEMBER, 2009
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Objects - What Matters? Technology, Value and Social Change

As contemporary social theorists continue to signal the need to reconfigure our deliberations on the social through attention to practice, to object-mediated relations, to non-human agency and to the affective dimensions of human sociality, this conference takes as its focus the objects and values which find themselves at centre stage. And we ask, in the context of nearly two decades of diverse disciplinary approaches to these issues, what matters about objects? How are they inflecting our understandings of technology, of expertise, and of social change? How has a focus on objects reconfigured our understandings of how values inflect the ways in which people make relations, create social worlds, and construct conceptual categories? How have objects become integral to human enthusiasms and energies, to transformational ambition, or to the transmission of values across time and space? How do objects move between ordinary and extraordinary states, shade in and out of significance, manifest instability and uncertainty? How do moral and material values attach to objects as they move in space and time? What dimensions do they inhabit and/or reveal? To address these questions we welcome papers on the following themes.

Themes

- The transformational work of everyday objects
- Object-centered learning
- Materiality, Stability and the State
- Radical Archives – within and beyond textual assemblages
- Conceptual Objects and Methods as Objects
- Immaterial Objects – haunting, virtuality, traces.
- Financial Objects
- Affective Objects
- Ephemera, Enthusiasm and Excess
- Spiritual and/or Moral Objects
- Controversial and Messy Objects

Keynote speakers to date include: **Avery Gordon** (UC Santa Barbara), **Graham Harman** (American University Cairo), **Annemarie Mol** (University of Twente), **Kathleen Stewart** (University of Texas, Austin)

Please submit either (a) 300 word abstracts for individual papers, or (b) proposals for panels including 3 papers by the end of February 2009. Proposal Forms are available online at www.cresc.ac.uk

“Economic Sociology as Critique Session” proved to be a very popular session, with about 100 people squeezing into what became an increasingly warm lecture room. Four speakers - Andrew Sayer, Sylvia Walby, Michael Burawoy and John Holmwood - gave brief presentations or provocations on the theme and there then followed a full 40 minutes of questions and lively discussion. Andrew Sayer argued that economic sociology needed to regain the critical edge characteristic of early writing on economy and society, such as that of Adam Smith, and recommended Sen and Nussbaum’s capabilities approach to help define critical standpoints. By reference to her work on gender, Sylvia Walby discussed the potential of public sociology and the strengths and weaknesses of capabilities and human rights approaches as bases for critique. Michael Burawoy discussed the critical potential of the ideas of Polanyi, albeit ‘Polanyi 2’, the theorist of ‘the double movement’, rather than ‘Po-

lanyi 1’, the theorist of embedding. John Holmwood, taking his inspiration from Durkheim, discussed the pathologies of neoliberalism and neoprogressivism, and the significance of the welfare state in counteracting the effects of markets. All four contributions overlapped and differed fruitfully and led to a constructive debate. Overall, the impression was that the audience agreed on the importance of developing more critical research on economy and society. We intend to build on this at our next meeting in Gothenberg.

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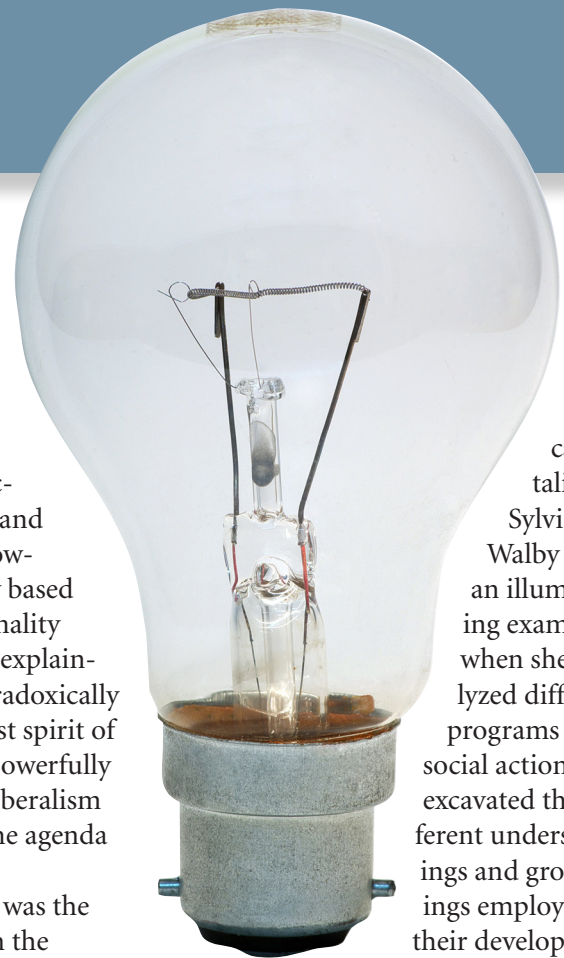
an important factor for certain phenomena; or that it need not take the fact that people today do not define themselves in class terms as a problem for doing class analysis. Holmwood suggested that rather than taking the pathway from Marx and his critique of Hegel and then to Weber, we may take an alternative pathway, from Hegel and Durkheim to Karl Polanyi. Polanyi’s notion of labour as a fictitious commodity illuminates the fact that labour contract and generalized labour are not purely the consequences of capitalist economic logic. Quite the contrary, according to Holmwood, they represent the intrusion of the social into economic. In other words, labour contract is the result of politics and social relations. He sees the alternative in reasserting the Hegelian distinction between ‘necessary’ and ‘contingent’ for the commodity form and in recasting the role of the state in protecting against contingencies of the market while preserving positive consequences of commodification, namely the freedoms associated with civil society and private exchange. In Holmwood’s view sociology should play the leading critical role in this process.

A Commentary: Critique of Knowledge, Critique of Practices

The session, in my view, reflects two

widespread disillusionments that spanned the discipline of economic sociology and the science of sociology in general particularly in the last thirty years. These are, on the one hand, the disillusionment with the idea of value-free and objective science; and on the other hand the disillusionment with the powers of economics and sociology based purely on economics and rationality assumptions in describing and explaining the world around us. In paradoxically simultaneous histories a Marxist spirit of changing the world for better powerfully reinstated itself just when neoliberalism in science and policy became the agenda of the day.

Evident in the presentations was the need for a general concern with the standpoints of researchers in economic sociology. I think that the speakers succeeded in highlighting a particular domain of power for economic sociology, a domain where critique as a mode of intellectual and scientific action is extremely topical. It is the domain of expertise of the ways of thinking. By this I mean the application of sociological knowledge and reasoning to the actual knowledges that are found in the world, and particularly to the knowledge of economic prac-



tices in the age of late capitalism. Sylvia Walby gave an illuminating example when she analyzed different programs for social action and excavated the different understandings and groundings employed in their development.

And in the same vein there is an important affinity between Michael Burawoy and John Holmwood who, while addressing seemingly different problems, challenged the dominant understandings of economic sociology. Burawoy criticized economic sociology’s ‘taming’ of Polanyi and made the authoritative claim for an alternative appreciation of Polanyi’s work. Similarly Holmwood challenged what may for be convenience called false consciousness

of sociologists who, even while working in the agenda of revolutionary change, see only neoliberal economics and fail to notice the social in labor relations.

What does all this have to do with the critique of practices that Andrew Sayer so succinctly advocated in the beginning of the session? I think it is all about it. And this, in my opinion, is the second important contribution of the session. For, as the social studies of science have taught us, the practices of sociological knowledge are themselves social practices. And the vital challenge for economic sociology is therefore to open its basic assumptions and standpoints for critical reflection. Furthermore, this task will naturally be a task of critique of practices beyond science itself because knowledge that economic sociology produces is not innocent. Quite the contrary, it is often the knowledge that escapes academia and enters public debate, social, economic, market practices as the knowledge of actors. Through the vehicles of both, to use Michael Burawoy's notion and distinction, 'traditional public sociology' – popular books, education, mass media, and 'organic public sociology' – participation and expertise, this knowledge enters the social world and affects it. I should add that many tasks seemingly unrelated to public sociology – such as market research – also carry, in a transformed way, some of its functions by virtue of their using knowledge from and affiliation with sociological enterprise. Economic sociology stepping on the path of critique has all this on its agenda. It is high time it followed it openly and enthusiastically. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Michael Burawoy, John Holmwood,

Andrew Sayer and Sylvia Walby for their kind helpfulness and for sharing their papers which greatly helped me in writing this report.

A Russian version of the report is intended to be published in *Ekonomicheskaya Sotsiologiya* (Economic Sociology) in 2008.

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cont'd from page 3: Work in South Africa
in South Africa raises another question: why is it so high? Part of the answer is that there is a serious mismatch in the supply of and demand for labour in South Africa. There is a massive oversupply of low-skilled and under-educated people in the labour force and a severe shortage of highly skilled and well educated people. On the one hand the shortage of skilled labour acts as a constraint that stifles the growth of the economy and employment. On the other hand a large proportion of the low-skilled and under-educated people are unemployable, especially in the growing sectors of the economy. These sectors include services where computer and communication skills are required, skills that the unemployed simply do not have.

To what extent are the scars of racial discrimination still discernable when it

comes to employment and unemployment in South Africa? After all, it is only 14 years since the country emerged from its colonial and apartheid heritage of racial discrimination. And what about gender discrimination?

The sad reality is that racial and gender inequalities are still deeply embedded in the employment and unemployment experiences of South Africans, but the racial ones are far more pronounced. Although Whites constitute only 14% of the labour force they occupy 80% of the top and senior management positions. Males fill 67% of the posts and females only 13%. Black males constitute only 8% of top and senior managers and Black females a mere 2%. Whites also make up 69% of the professionals and 43% of the skilled technicians. At the other end of the labour market, the broad unemployment level of Blacks is 48% with Black females being worst off with a rate of 56%. In contrast to this, the broad unemployment level of Whites is only 8%.

The post-apartheid government has introduced measures to eliminate these racial and gender inequalities. The Employment Equity Act of 1998 prohibits discrimination of any kind in employment and requires enterprises to implement affirmative action measures to create equity in the workplace. Great problems have been experienced in the implementation of the Act. The private sector is perceived to be reluctant to implement affirmative action because the proportion of Blacks and women in the top posts have remained relatively low. However, on closer inspection, the rate of growth of Black males and females in top management has been very high – as

The sad reality is that racial and gender inequalities are still deeply embedded in the employment and unemployment experiences of South Africans, but the racial ones are far more pronounced.

high as 30% per annum – but the growth started off such a small base that the impact of the growth has not yet been seen as significant.

On the other hand, in the public sector many state departments and local governments (municipalities) have implemented employment equity almost overnight. But in doing so they appointed people without the requisite skills with the result that services have deteriorated drastically, especially at local government level.

The government subsequently introduced a more powerful measure to redress past injustices in South Africa, namely the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Act of 2003. The Act compels the state and public corporations to implement Black economic empowerment (BEE) when determining licences, concessions, procurement policies, the sale of state-owned enterprises, and entering into partnerships with the private sector.

A major problem that has been experienced with the implementation of the Act thus far is that it has not been broad-based. The perception is that the Act is fostering crony capitalism in South Africa in that a small elite of Blacks close to the ruling party benefits repeatedly from BEE measures. As a result some of them have become multi-millionaires.

At the other extreme is the overwhelming proportion of Blacks who have not benefited much from the political transformation of 1994. Most of them are effectively locked into the Black townships created before and during the apartheid era as well as remote rural areas. The school education provided in the townships and rural areas has remained shockingly bad while four to five out of every ten of these adult workers remain unemployed.

This brings us back to the question raised at the start: why do many of these unemployed people not enter into informal employment by starting up their own enterprises even if they are only survivalist in nature such as street vendors? There

are many reasons. Research finds that the most common reason is that they cannot obtain the necessary financial assistance to start up a venture, which is true. But in addition many do not have the managerial skills to run an enterprise successfully. Furthermore, the townships in which they reside are far from the markets they require to sell their goods and provide their services. They are also far from suppliers of the materials they require and lack transport as well as the necessary social and business networks to know how and where to acquire their supplies. Although municipalities have become far more amenable to informal traders, the traders still face regulations that impede and obstruct many of them from trading in the business areas of the cities and towns.

It could also be that many who claim not to work are engaged in illegal activities such as crime and drug dealing – information that they would not share with census officials.

The ILO (International Labour Organisation) is promoting decent work in Africa. Decent work is work that helps a person achieve a sense of self-fulfilment, take pride in their work, and contribute real value to society. It is clear that South Africa is still a long way from achieving the objective of decent work for all its working people.

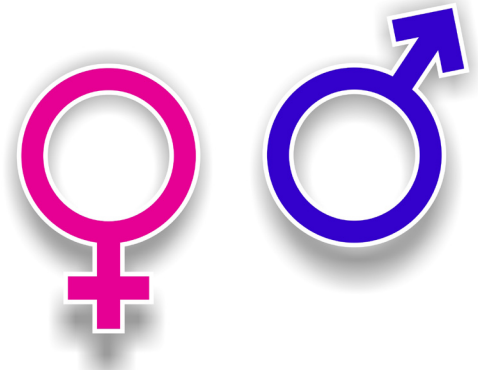
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FIRST ISA FORUM
**Welfare and Gender
Regimes in Comparative
Capitalisms and Varieties of
Capitalist Gender Regimes**

The call for papers for the session on welfare and gender-regimes in comparative capitalism evoked responses from scholars worldwide so that two sessions were organized.

In the early 21st century the promise of gender equality and the privatisation



of risk are matters of institutional and regulatory change, related to the future role of the public sphere in securing protections, the balance between states, markets, individuals and other possible ‘third sector’ actors in sharing the responsibility for economic risks and livelihood security. Papers in these sessions provided the space to debate conceptualizations of welfare and gender regimes in comparative capitalisms and gave renewed attention to the ‘intersection’ of gender-based inequalities and institutional aspects of gendered institutional and regulatory change, especially in comparative perspective.

In **session 8** the contributions concentrated on welfare regimes.

Mari Osawa, University of Tokyo, presented the concept of a “livelihood security system”. This foregrounds institutional linkages and the “articulation of government institutions and policies with institutions including family, enterprise, and not-for-profit organizations”. Drawing on a broad data base, she argued that “the welfare state in the late 20th century has revealed social exclusion in a broader sense, but particularly in countries with a male breadwinner model” gender regime where young people and women are excluded inside and outside the labour market. For Japan she stresses the high relative poverty rates and a high level of income inequality compared to other OECD countries. In analysing the health insurance and the old age pension schemes, she argues that the Japanese social insurance schemes have not only been “hollowed out but have become a gigantic mechanism for exclusion”. With

Her empirical findings show that even though technical qualifications are still needed, social competences become increasingly relevant to enter and to remain in IT organizations

her analysis she offers a new gender-sensitive conceptualization for mapping inequalities in comparative welfare capitalisms.

Laia Castelló Santa Maria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, explained the distinctiveness of the less well known southern European welfare states. She highlighted the Spanish case in her comparative analyses of “processes influencing the organisation of reproductive work” in four Mediterranean countries. After analysing the externalisation of the domestic and caretaking work into the market she showed that this has not led to a professionalization of care work. Thus the strength of the familist imaginary becomes an element of resistance to the development of the social family policy of the Mediterranean countries.

Sally Bould and Gunther Schmaus, CEPS Luxembourg provided a detailed analysis of the economic consequences of divorce. They presented results that give reason to rethink the relationship between welfare regimes, labour markets and household dynamics as well as micro-and macro linkages.

Hadas Mandel, Tel-Aviv University, developed a wide range of indicators concerning women’s economic activities and uses them for her comparative analysis of gender inequality in 14 OECD countries. She argued that the “nature of gender stratification varies across countries in accordance with different modes of welfare state intervention and divergent ideological approaches to gender stratification”. The different patterns of state intervention in the conservative, liberal and social-democratic paths are embedded in “deeply rooted ideological and cultural contexts” which means that solutions cannot be imported but have to adapt to these different contexts.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Book Proposals and Papers

Comparative Sociology (www.brill.nl/coso) is a quarterly international scholarly journal published by Brill of Leiden, Netherlands dedicated to advancing comparative sociological analyses of societies and cultures, institutions and organizations, groups and collectivities, networks and interactions. In addition, book-length manuscripts may also be submitted to the related book series, International Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology (www.brill.nl/issa).

Two issues of the journal each year are devoted to “special topics,” and six topics currently open for submissions (through July 2009) are:

- Democratic Quality and Social Democracy
- Constitutional Courts Cross-Nationally
- Institutional Design
- Bourdieu on Professions
- Public Realm Ascent v. Field Autonomy Ascent
- Enlightened Localism (edited by Benjamin Gregg)

Consult the Website for descriptions of each.

Editor-in-Chief is David Sciulli, Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University, and Columbia University Ph.D. in Political Science (compsoc@tamu.edu). Submissions are welcome not only from sociologists but also political scientists, legal scholars, economists, anthropologists and others. Indeed, the journal and book series are particularly keen to receive works of comparative political sociology and comparative legal sociology. All submissions are peer-reviewed and (initial) decisions are typically made within less than three months.

Analysing examples from different countries, she concluded that strong incentives from the State can promote gender equality in a powerful way.

Sawako Shirahase, University of Tokyo, discussed the impact of unmarried adults in Japan who continue to live with their parents on household inequalities.

The contributions of **session 3** presented research on comparative gender regimes in respect to labour markets, education, and professions.

Esther Ruiz Ben, Technische Universität Berlin, presented a theoretical framework for the analysis of the impacts of the internationalization of work in IT companies on professionalism and gender. Her empirical findings show that

even though technical qualifications are still needed, social competences become increasingly relevant to enter and to remain in IT organizations. “International project work, visibility, and experience in and through projects as well as time, place and subject flexibility” as well as engaging in permanent training are crucial for career advancement. She argued that the “situation in the IT sector is favourable to young, flexible women entering the sector, yet that the shift “towards a mixed form of managerialism and professionalism” brings disadvantages for women with family responsibilities. In the relocation of IT-services back to Germany she sees a chance for a more family-friendly work organisation.

Ilse Lenz, Universitaet Bochum, Germany, provides “a first sketch of possible connections between the varieties of welfare states and education”. Based on her hypothesis on “how the welfare state influenced the transformation process from capabilisation as mother /wife in the national frame to qualification” she explored the possible connections between the varieties of welfare states and education more in depth. Her assumption is that “a systematic integration of the dimensions of education – capabilisation, qualification and civil competencies – into the varieties of welfare states might lead to a differentiation of the typology”.

Karen Shire, Universitaet Duisburg-Essen and Karin Gottschall, Universitaet Bremen argued that the “varieties of capitalism literature takes a view of educational institutions and their role in generating occupational segmentation which provides an inadequate understanding of gender-based segmentation in the German economy”. This they find to be true “both in a retrospective analysis of gender in the German industrial economy and for research about gender segmentation in the emerging knowledge-based economy”. They take “a broader perspective on educational institutional changes in Germany, in order to highlight the complexity of social inequalities in relation to the nexus between educational and labour market institutions”. Consequently, they argue for a “societal theory of employment relations, which moves beyond the explanatory role of micro-level firm choices by linking the role of the firm-as-actor to an organizational and economic sociological perspective”. In analysing the dynamics of employment in the new knowledge-intensive fields of the German economy, they provide insights into gender-based differences in employment risks.

Alessandra Rusconi and Heike Solga, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung presented their research on dual career couples. Looking at the persisting inequality of career chances for highly qualified women and men despite the upward trend in female employ-

ment rates, they found, “that such gender inequalities are also due to the fact that the majority of highly educated women live with an equally highly educated partner”. The achievement or failure of dual-career arrangements is therefore a ‘social-relational process’. They argue that the opportunities and constraints of dual careers can only be understood by taking up a life-course perspective. For further research they suggest to pay more attention to the couple as a unit of analysis and the relation of both partner’s characteristics.

Three tabled papers could not be discussed in the session due to time constraints. Paola Cappellin provided a paper on “Crossing the border between Latin America (Brazil) and Europe (Italy and Norway). Gender protection and promotion in workplace since the 1990s.” Gina Zabludovsky’s paper dealt with “Women managers in Mexico” and Chin-

contradictions particularly for conservative welfare states, which are premised on the male-breadwinner model of the family and welfare state?

How are particular configurations of inequality related to different welfare states?

The casualization of the labour market and the gendered nature of work restructuring were important topics, yet as Heidi Gottfried stated, the gender dimensions of employment practices and institutions as well as regulations were not in the focus of most presenters. Particularly, changing class structures and employment forms were not systematically taken into account.

What impact should the findings have on gender-specific policies (affirmative action, equal employment)? Should they change from class-specific strategies (training programs, minimum wage) in recognition that the latter alone will not

the varieties of capitalism approach offer some insights, but neglects gender relations embedded in the way major institutions are organized, creating blind spots in their political-economic models

fen Chang put the question: “Merits or Less Discrimination? - How Job Opportunities Affect Gender Gap of Earnings in Taiwan.”

The variety of papers provoked a great deal of discussion about the structuring influence of gender relations within and across households, states, and firms. They raised new research questions, as highlighted by the commentators, Heidi Gottfried, Wayne State University and Sylvia Walby, Lancaster University:

Do changes in gender relations and family structure create new frictions and

uproot gender structures disadvantaging women and will not change gender norms and practices that have devalued women’s work?

In which way do gender politics and policies have to take into account different national contexts and different constellations of public and private institutions? How does the interaction of gender and class frustrate as well as promote political mobilization?

Sylvia Walby raised the question of how and to what extent gender constitutes a system, in reference to the “dual

systems” analysis of varieties of capitalism and varieties of gender regimes.

In her comments Heidi Gottfried stated the importance of broadening the variety of capitalisms approach. It offers “some insights, but neglects gender relations embedded in the way major institutions are organized, creating blind spots in their political-economic models. Gendered power relationships in economy and polity affect the distribution of duties, rights, and rewards.” Seeing the increasing class disparities among women made her call for more intersectional analysis to compare the absolute and relative progress and losses made by different groups of women and men.

The broad variety of topics in the sessions showed that there is a tremendous amount of interesting research in the field. Yet, it also showed that many questions remain to be answered. It became obvious that comparative approaches combining analyses of employment, social welfare and family formation on the one hand, gender and class, varieties of gender and capitalist regimes on the other, are at the forefront of analyses of economic and social transformation and public discourses about a social economy.

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FIRST ISA FORUM
**Transnational Corporations:
Villains or Heroes
of Globalisation**

The panel titled “Transnational Corporations: Villains or Heroes of Globalisation?” chaired by Judith Clifton, University of Cantabria, was deliberately loaded and provocative. Five papers were presented that posed this question in a



different field of enquiry. Andrew Jorgenson, North Carolina State University, opened the session delivering a paper on to what extent having environmental NGOs on the ground actually affects the negative environmental externalities of Transnational Corporations. Using excellent quantitative techniques Andrew argued that indeed their presence mattered, and helped to alleviate potential environmental degradation of big business. Sergio González and Holm-Detlev Köhler, University of Oviedo, then tackled the question of what impact Transnational Corporations have upon organised labour by examining changes in decision-making, collective bargaining and so forth. Köhler concluded with recommendations for European trade unions and stressed the need to reinvigorate Social Europe. Jeffrey Kantor, University of Utah, explored the impact of Foreign Direct Investment on development from an organizational perspective. He did this by examining the role of foreign subsidiaries in the economic growth of less developed countries between 1970 and 2000. Kantor concluded that the growth of foreign subsidies has an overall positive effect on economic growth in developing countries, but that, at the same time, relatively high levels of foreign subsidiary concentration tend to inhibit the further expansion of foreign subsidiaries. José Esteban Castro, University of Newcastle, then examined the role of private Transnational Corporations in water and sanitation services at the international level, but particularly in Latin America. His re-

search was grounded in empirical results of an international project he led whilst based at the University of Oxford. Castro also explained the role of social movements in terms of a “counter-hegemonic” force against the growing role of private Transnational Corporations in this sector. Finally, Manu Ahedo presented a paper jointly written with Ignasi Brunet and Angel Belzunegui on the interaction of local society with Transnational Corporations in Tarragona, Spain. Ahedo analysed this interaction as asymmetric and examined what strategies local actors use to increase the likelihood of gaining mutually rewarding relations with Transnational Corporations. To return to the provocative panel title, the conclusion that could be derived from the panel is that the effects of Transnational Corporations are a complex mix of both positive and negative, but that policy and the response of society matter. With reflections on the impact of Transnational Corporations upon the environment, organised labour, economic development, water, the most basic service for life, and finally local society, this panel provided a brief, but quite comprehensive, examination into the impact of Transnational Corporations in the twenty-first century.

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FIRST ISA FORUM
Responses to the
Emerging Global Plutonomy

At the RC02 “Plutonomy” session in Barcelona we had a groups of scholars from four continents speak about different aspects of and responses to the emerging global plutonomy. In Fall 2005 a team of Citigroup equity analysts introduced the term “plutonomy” into the

Judith Clifton and Daniel Díaz-Fuentes, University of Cantabria, Spain: *Transnational Corporations and Networks Providing Public Services*

All of the panelists seemed to agree with the basic premise of the session, that the world-economy increasingly serves the wealthy, wherever they are found. Majeet Charurvedi suggested that in

pro-labor public policies. Judith Clifton and Daniel Díaz-Fuentes showed how, despite their rhetoric of free-market fundamentalism, northern plutonomists support privatization and liberalization only in select environments, where they think it will support their own interests.

In addition to the panelists’ presentations, we also had a brief synopsis of papers by Tom Hall and Pat Lauderdale, who were not able to attend in person. We concluded with a lively and wide-ranging discussion around the problems raised by the gross concentration of wealth into the hands of the super-rich in recent decades. The best answer to this problem seems to be to work to improve the operation of the world’s democracies. Democratic governments representing the wishes and well-being of their citizens should be able to create the conditions for a more equitable distribution of societies’ resources.

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In Fall 2005 a team of Citigroup equity analysts introduced the term “plutonomy” into the English vocabulary, defining Plutonomies as “economies powered by the wealthy.”

English vocabulary, defining Plutonomies as “economies powered by the wealthy.” In Citigroup’s analysis, “the earth is being held up by the muscular arms of its entrepreneur-plutocrats, like it, or not,” and “the Plutonomy is here [and] is going to get stronger, its membership swelling from globalized enclaves in the emerging world.” All of which prompts the sociologist to ask: are they right? Are there bases of resistance? And what are the appropriate public policy responses?

Our panelists considering these questions were:

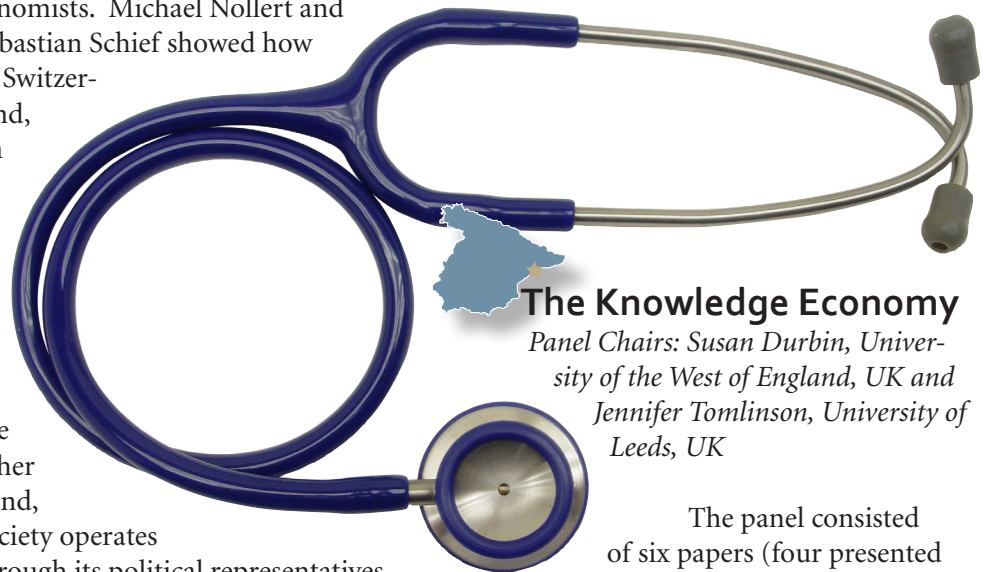
Manjeet Chaturvedi, Banaras Hindu University, India: *Civil Resistance to Indian Plutonomy*

Michael Nollert and Sebastian Schief, University of Fribourg, Switzerland: *Welfare by Two-Fold Plutonomy: The Case of Switzerland*

Robert J.S. Ross, Clark University, USA, rjsross@clarku.edu: *How do Workers Achieve Inclusion?*

India the greatest resistance to this trend comes from some of the most vulnerable, small farmers who have been the victims of the rise of local (but globalized) plutonomists. Michael Nollert and Sebastian Schief showed how in Switzerland, on

the other hand, society operates through its political representatives to harness the global plutonomy to underwrite the local welfare state. Robert Ross argued that across the world labor can succeed in curtailing the worst effects of plutonomy by organizing, partnering with broader civil society, and seeking



The Knowledge Economy
Panel Chairs: Susan Durbin, University of the West of England, UK and Jennifer Tomlinson, University of Leeds, UK

The panel consisted of six papers (four presented and two tabled) that considered the knowledge-based economy as a developing and contested terrain. These offered a critical perspective on a selection of topics covering the relationship between education and the knowledge-based economy, a review of the benefits

FOR CALL
PAPERS

Call for Papers: an Anthropology of Stuff

The following is intended as a guide to help the preparation for a proposal for a book for the Routledge Series For Creative Teaching and Learning in Anthropology.

The series is dedicated to innovative, unconventional ways to connect undergraduate students and their lived concerns about our social world to the power of social science ideas and evidence. Our goal with the project is to help spark social science imaginations and in doing so, new avenues for meaningful thought and action.

For example, one of the first efforts will be a series entitled “**The Anthropology of Stuff**,” 100 to 120 page monographs devoted to tracing the biographies of commodities (e.g. X-Boxes, cut-flowers, greeting cards, coffee, etc.) illuminating for students the network of people and activities that create their material world.

Other projects or titles should use anthropology to help students understand that they benefit from exposing their own lives and activities to the power of anthropological thought and analysis and that pose questions and problems that speak to the complexities of modern life.

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Purpose. What are the goals you have for your book as a teaching/ learning aid? In what ways will your approach connect students to their social world? Will the book be designed for lower or upper level anthropology courses?

Coverage. What topics do you plan to include? What relevant issues or problems will the work pursue?

If the book is proposed for the Anthropology of Stuff series, what will be the focus of your book and how intrinsic is the “stuff” to student’s lives? Will you include a historical component? What aspects of the topic do you plan to address (e.g. production, labor, distribution, use, etc.)? Will there be any cross-cultural coverage; that is how the problem is addressed or pertains to other cultures or how object or activity that is the focus of your work used or pursued in other cultures?

Approach: Does your project have a particular theoretical orientation, and, if so, how will that fit into undergraduate level anthropology courses?

Apparatus. Describe any components of the book planned to augment the textual discussions (examples, exercises, objectives, summaries, annotated bibliography, glossary, etc.).

Specifications. If the project is not proposed for the *Anthropology of Stuff* series, what published book length do you anticipate? Hardcover or paperback? What type(s) and number of illustrations do you anticipate?

Courses: What course or courses is the proposed book intended and how would it be used in that course (i.e. how would it fit into instructors’ course syllabi)

Schedule. When do you expect to have your manuscript completed in first draft form?

Supplements. What support materials should accompany the text (e.g. study guide, instructor’s manual, complementary web site, etc.)?

Author. What do you bring to the project that makes you uniquely qualified to undertake it? Please attach a current curriculum vitae.

The proposal can be sent to either:

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of knowledge clusters and the consideration of the knowledge-creation process and networking within specific occupational groups, across different economic and cultural boundaries.

The first paper, *Quality of Care and Professional Knowledge of Care Workers*, presented by Makiko Nishikawa from Hosei University, Japan, examined the knowledge and skills of care workers in Japan, based upon a survey of 130 homecare service establishments in Tokyo. These care workers were identified as learning and accumulating knowledge through apprenticeship relationships, the

paper making the distinction between high knowledge workers (such as doctors and lawyers) and knowledge technologists (such as computer technicians and software designers). These distinctions were applied to the case of care workers, who were identified as relatively low status workers in Japan. The scope of care workers’ knowledge was defined as narrow and idiosyncratic but at the same time, it was also argued that these care workers demonstrated a high level of knowledge in the context of relation management, in terms of awareness of client feelings, communication, emotion

control and the nurturing of relationships, leading to the conclusion that care workers are knowledge workers.

The second paper, *Communication and Knowledge in Six Western European Industrial Clusters*, presented by Lucio Biggiero of L’Aquila University, Italy, engaged with the knowledge-based economy at a European level, picking up the theme of tacit knowledge, defining this as both simple and complex, as well as codifiable and non-codifiable. The basic assumption was that if industrial clusters have a strong core in terms of knowledge and practices in which competitive advantage

rests, they are able to resist the pressures of globalisation and digitalisation. Companies that assign the highest value to knowledge are those that are most digitalised, operating in technologically complex clusters, within a greater geographical proximity. It was argued that relatively low importance is paid to 'local

economy leads to higher income inequalities between people with and without post-secondary education. It was argued that the knowledge sector differs from the remaining economy in that it has the highest qualification structure but also the most unbalance one. Polarisation in a knowledge-based economy was therefore

The 'knowledge economy' remains an emergent and contested concept, and whilst there is an emerging consensus around its existence, there is also evidence for the reproduction of old and new inequalities which transcend cultural boundaries.

knowledge' (e.g. experts hired from the host labour market, knowledge derived from interactions with clients and suppliers) but that importance increases for larger firms that are most digitised and most technologically complex.

The third paper, *Knowledge Economies and Stratification: education and income in the transition process*, presented by Daniela Rohrbach, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Bonn, was based on a survey of 19 OECD countries, drawing upon data from national accounts and databases on educational attainment of nation states and individual level data. The consequences of the transition of a knowledge-based economy for stratification were discussed and the question posed, are the rewards for education rising with the emergence of the knowledge-based economy? The paper acknowledged that there had been an observable trend towards a knowledge-based society since the 1970s and at the same time, raised the question as to the benefits of such a transition. It was concluded that the average income return to education declines with the transition to a knowledge-based economy, especially for men, and that the knowledge-based

evident.

The fourth paper, *Female Part-time Managers in the Knowledge-based Economy: networks and career mobility*, presented by Jennifer Tomlinson, University of Leeds, UK and joint-authored with Susan Durbin, University of the West of England, UK, analysed networks as a key component of the knowledge-based economy. It questioned whether networking facilitated or held back careers for 16 female part-time managers, a hard to reach and under-researched group of workers in the UK. The paper explored female part-time managers' promotional prospects and mobility and explored the ways in which networking helped or hindered these womens' career prospects. The paper concluded that the majority of female part-time managers had varied and successful career histories whilst full-time but that this stalled once the transition to part-time working was made. Whilst networking had made an important contribution to career progression into a managerial role for most women, the transition to part-time working now meant that networking was a more time constrained activity.

The two tabled papers, *The Links*

Between Post-compulsory Education, the Knowledge Economy and Value Relations in Late Capitalism (Peter Kennedy, Glasgow Caledonia University) and *Applied Knowledge Economy and Global Integration: online education in Islamic countries* (Manjeet Chaturvedi, Ishita Chaturvedi and Ishan Chaturvedi, Banaras Hindu University, India; Robert Kennedy College Zurich and Indian Institute of Technology, India) both continued the debate on education raised by Daniela Rohrbach's earlier paper. The first paper utilised Marx's value theory of labour to understand the relationship between an expanding post-compulsory education system and the development of the knowledge-based economy, arguing that the knowledge-based economy does not represent a qualitative break with industrial capitalism and that the economic function of education remains crucial. The second paper took a different perspective, focusing upon online education provided by European and USA universities to Islamic countries around the world, this practically shaping the world view of students with a hope of collaboration between civilisations.

The panellists offered their thoughts on the extent to which the knowledge-based economy presents new opportunities in terms of the quality of working life and the consequences of this for certain groups in different societies. A general consensus arose from these papers, which highlighted both old and new inequalities in a knowledge-based economy, echoing Castell's perspective on the emergence of 'winners' and 'losers'. The role of education within this polarisation process was also evident. The 'knowledge economy' remains an emergent and contested concept, and whilst there is an emerging consensus around its existence, there is also evidence for the reproduction of old and new inequalities which transcend cultural boundaries.

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Members' Recent Research

Castilla, Emilio J. 2008. "Gender, Race, and Meritocracy in Organizational Careers." *American Journal of Sociology*. 113(6): 1479-526.

Abstract: This study helps to fill a significant gap in the literature on organizations and inequality by investigating the central role of merit-based reward systems in shaping gender and racial disparities in wages and promotions. The author develops and tests a set of propositions isolating processes of performance-reward bias, whereby women and minorities receive less compensation than white men with equal scores on performance evaluations. Using personnel data from a large service organization, the author empirically establishes the existence of this bias and shows that gender, race, and nationality differences continue to affect salary growth after performance ratings are taken into account, *ceteris paribus*. This finding demonstrates a critical challenge faced by the many contemporary employers who adopt merit-based practices and policies. Although these policies are often adopted in the hope of motivating employees and ensuring meritocracy, policies with limited transparency and accountability can actually increase ascriptive bias and reduce equity in the workplace.

Fenelon, James V. and Thomas D. Hall. 2008. "Revitalization and Indigenous Resistance to Globalization and Neoliberalism." *American Behavioral Scientist* 51:12(Aug):1867-1901.

Abstract: This article reviews discussions and case studies of indigenous peoples, especially American Indians (Lakota, Navajo, and Wampanoag), the Zapatista movement, Latin American examples (Mapuche, Guarani, and Miskito), the Adevasi in India, and the Maori, adding short sketches of Kurds in the Middle East, Pashtun in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and cases from Africa and southeast

FOR CALL
PAPERS

Call for Book Proposals and Papers

Comparative Sociology (www.brill.nl/coso) is a quarterly international scholarly journal published by Brill of Leiden, Netherlands dedicated to advancing comparative sociological analyses of societies and cultures, institutions and organizations, groups and collectivities, networks and interactions. In addition, book-length manuscripts may also be submitted to the related book series, *International Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology* (www.brill.nl/issa).

Two issues of the journal each year are devoted to "special topics," and six topics currently open for submissions (through July 2009) are:

- Democratic Quality and Social Democracy
- Constitutional Courts Cross-Nationally
- Institutional Design
- Bourdieu on Professions
- Public Realm Ascent v. Field Autonomy Ascent
- Enlightened Localism (edited by Benjamin Gregg)

Consult the Website for descriptions of each.

Editor-in-Chief is David Sciulli, Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University, and Columbia University Ph.D. in Political Science (compsoc@tamu.edu). Submissions are welcome not only from sociologists but also political scientists, legal scholars, economists, anthropologists and others. Indeed, the journal and book series are particularly keen to receive works of comparative political sociology and comparative legal sociology. All submissions are peer-reviewed and (initial) decisions are typically made within less than three months.

Asia to develop a general indigenous model, including social systems of decision making, economic distribution, land tenure systems, and community relations. We present two such models, one on indigenous revitalization and another on the resistance to state domination and the forces of globalization, especially in respect to neoliberalism, and then we make an applied analysis toward indigenous peoples' struggles globally.

Garibaldo, Francesco, Philippe Morvannou and Jochen Tholen (eds). 2008. *Is China a Risk or an Opportunity for Europe? An Assessment of the Automobile, Steel and Shipbuilding Sectors*, Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang. ISBN 978-3-631-57474-4

Abstract: China's industrial growth has been the unexpected event of the beginning of the 21st Century owing to its impact on the entire global economy. The aim of this book is to arrive at a common understanding of China's economic future and its consequences for Europe based on the situation in three metal sectors chosen as examples, namely steel, shipbuilding and automotive sectors. That assessment can then serve as a basis for describing and evaluating the importance of the factors enabling Chinese industry to be globally competitive. Finally, this research will endeavour to pinpoint the relevant issues and establish ways of internationally regulating the growth of China's metal industries, making them compatible with international standards regarding sustainable development and social responsibility.

Hall, Thomas D. and James V. Fenelon. 2008. "Indigenous Movements and Globalization: What is Different? What is the Same?" *Globalizations* 5:1(March):1-11.

Abstract: Too often indigenous movements are lumped in with [anti-]globalization, globalization protest movements, or the 'new social movements'. While in some respects this categorization fits, in other, more important respects it does not. Indigenous peoples have been resisting globalization and globalization-like forces for centuries in the western hemisphere, and for millennia in Africa and Eurasia. While the forms of resistance have changed significantly over time, a key difference for indigenous movements is that they typically are not interested in reforming the system. Rather, they are interested in autonomy and preserving their own political-cultural space to remain different. In this sense they are often deeper challenges to neoliberalism than other movements. This paper explores and elaborates on these differences and their significance for our understanding of globalization and the reactions to it.

Herkenrath, Mark (Ed.). 2007. *Civil Society Local and Regional Responses to Global Challenges*. Transaction Publishers. ISBN 978-3-8258-0533-3

Herkenrath, Mark (Ed. for the World Society Foundation). 2007. *The Regional and Local Shaping of World Society*. Transaction Publishers. ISBN 978-3-8258-0534-0

Kardulias, P. Nick and Thomas D. Hall. 2007. "A World-Systems View of Human Migration Past and Present: Providing a General Model for Understanding the Movement of People." *Forum on Public Policy*, on-line: <http://www.forumonpublicpolicy.com/archivesum07/kardulias.pdf>

Abstract: Since *Homo erectus* left Africa over a million years ago, to the constant transfer of people between contemporary states, migration has been a key human response to environmental, social, political, and economic changes. Using world-systems analysis initially defined by Wallerstein and others to explain the rise of modern capitalism, we adopt a macro-view that sees human societies as interacting entities with constant contacts that engender cultural transformations across great geographic distances. We argue that such a systemic approach clearly indicates that globalization is not a new phenomenon, but rather an extension of old processes. We discuss several general mechanisms that characterize migration within a systemic context. First, migration creates ripple effects which are felt over great distances as successive groups move and impinge on the territory of their neighbors; the potential effects can stretch across continents. Second, migration patterns tend to be cyclical. Population movements relieve stress on local resources, and it takes time to build to another critical threshold. Third, since the creation of the state at about 3500 B.C., boundaries, frontiers, and ethnic character have become critical identifiers. Contemporary states grapple with the process of ethnogenesis (creation of ethnic identity) and its consequences for defining citizenship, with its attendant rights and obligations. Vast increases in transportation efficiency have heightened the fluidity of boundaries and complicated the processes of ethnic identification. A world-systems perspective facilitates a comprehensive view of past and current migration, and thus places modern issues in a historical context.

La Lone, Darrell and Thomas D. Hall. 2008. "The Revolution in Evolution: Evolution for Everyone: A Review Essay." *Evolution and Sociology Newsletter* 5:1(Spring): 8-11.

Abstract: In this review essay we seek to call the attention to several recent books that depict and apply recent, sometimes radical, changes in evolutionary thinking among biologists, and provide some 'teases' about how they might be used in the social sciences. Some of these include: Lamarck was not entirely wrong; Mendel was not entirely correct; we can make sound arguments for group selection in a number of conditions; "junk DNA" is, of course, not junk, but plays important roles in a number of genetic and epigenetic processes; and evolution is not just for biologists.

Lee, Kristen Schultz and Hiroshi Ono. 2008. "Specialization and Happiness in Marriage: A U.S.-Japan Comparison." *Social Science Research* 37(4): 1216-1234.

Abstract: This paper examines the relationship between specialization and happiness in marriage in the U.S. and Japan. Our findings, based on the General Social Surveys in the U.S. and Japan, indicate both similarities and differences in the determinants of marital happiness in the two countries. In the U.S., the findings are mixed. Women's reported marital happiness in the U.S. is more likely to follow the predictions of the bargaining model where their happiness is determined by their own income. Men's marital happiness in the U.S. follows the predictions of the specialization model; they are happier if their wives are not working or, alternatively, if they are financially dependent on their wives. In Japan, we find support for the specialization model, particularly in the case of women; they are happier if they are specialized in the household and they have a higher household income. Our research highlights how marital quality is affected by the institutional context and the normative environment.

Keywords: Gender; Family; Marital happiness; Specialization; Bargaining

Ono, Hiroshi and Madeline Zavodny. 2008. "Immigrants, English Ability, and Information Technology Use." *Social Forces* 86(4): 1455-1480.

Abstract: This study examines the extent and causes of inequalities in information technology ownership and use between natives and immigrants in the United States, with particular focus on the role of English ability. The results indicate that, during the period 1997-2003, immigrants were significantly less likely to have access to or use a computer and the Internet. Moreover, the gap in IT usage widened during that period. Immigrants and natives who live in Spanish-speaking households are less likely than individuals living in English-speaking households to have access to or use IT. Estimates using a measure of predicted English ability show that English ability is positively associated with IT access and use. The results suggest that much of the immigrant-native gap in IT usage is attributable to differences in English ability.

Pitluck, Aaron Z. 2008. "Moral Behavior in Stock Markets: Islamic Finance and Socially Responsible Investment." Pp. 233-55 in *Economics and Morality: Anthropological Approaches*, Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) Monographs, edited by K. E. Browne and B. L. Milgram. Lanham: AltaMira Press, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Abstract: This paper addresses the puzzle of why the inclusion of non-financial social justice or religious criteria by professional fund managers has been so popular in Malaysia and yet has had to date relatively little influence in the United States stock market. Drawing from over 125 ethnographic interviews with financial workers in Malaysia, this paper argues that moral investment behavior in stock markets is shaped primarily by 'market structure' rather than by 'mandates.' In both countries mandates are a weak form of social control of fund man-

agers' behavior. This is because mandates are not principal-agent contracts but are primarily marketing exercises and cultural tools. Social investing in the United States is weak because it relies solely on mandates to communicate clients' ethical desires to their fund managers. Islamic and Ethical finance in Malaysia is strong because Islamic social movements have reformed the Malaysian stock market's structure. Specifically, a uniform interpretation of Islamic investing was institutionalized with the creation of a nearly-unique quasi-governmental body. As a consequence, Islamic principles systematically influence the behavior of corporations listed in Malaysia, at present narrowly, but with the potential for wider influence in future. The paper closes with implications for social investment in the United States.

Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1156346>

Available at MPRA: <http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/9477/>

Ruggles, Myles Alexander. 2005. *Automating Interaction: Formal and Informal Knowledge in the Digital Network Economy*. Cresskill, N.J: Hampton Communication Series, Hampton Press.

Abstract: The role of knowledge and information in economic life has gradually emerged as a central question in economic theory, and the way economists now think about this question contributes to shaping our understanding of the interaction of information technologies and sociocultural institutions. This volume traces the history of knowledge, information, and cognate categories as variables in economic thought, from their first appearance in early classical economics, to their role in contemporary investigations in economic psychology. It suggests that assumptions and arguments current in the mainstream of economic thought in fact work to obscure some of the most significant effects of changing information technologies on patterns of human economic action. It there-

fore argues that paradigmatic revision of the methodological assumptions of mainstream economics, particularly the tenets of methodological individualism, are necessary to capturing and modeling accurately the welfare implications of information technology innovation and design and adoption processes in society.

Thosen, Ludwig. 2007. "Schiffbau in Europa in globaler Konkurrenz - Struktur, Beschäftigung und Perspektiven." *OBS-Arbeitsheft* 51, Frankfurt am Main.

Vite Pérez, Miguel Ángel. "The Oaxaca Social Movement: the Limits of Mexican Electoral Democracy." Unpublished manuscript. For a copy, please contact the author: miguelvite@yahoo.com.

Abstract: This article reflects about the relationship between the post-policy era and Mexican social protest, and what has become a governmental strategy to neutralize those who seek to universalize their particular demands. This is illustrated in general with what happened to the Oaxaca social movement. Furthermore, it is argued that the strategy of Mexican post-policy has transformed an electoral democracy into a space of dispute for the privileges of a plural political elite. (Translated by Emeshe Juhász-Mininberg)

Key words: Post-policy, criminalization, partisan alternation, social movement

Wherry, Frederick F. 2008. "The Social Characterizations of Price: The Fool, the Faithful, the Frivolous, and the Frugal," *Sociological Theory* 26(4): 363-79.

Abstract: This essay extends both Viviana Zelizer's discussion of the social meaning of money and Charles Smith's proposal that pricing is a definitional practice to the under-theorized realm of the social meanings generated in the pricing system. Individuals are attributed with calculating or not calculating whether an object or service is "worth"

its price, but these attributions differ according to the individual's social location as being near to or far from a societal reference point rather than by the inherent qualities of the object or service purchased. Prices offer seemingly objective (quantitative) proof of the individual's "logic of appropriateness"—in other words, people like that pay prices such as those. This essay sketches a preliminary but nonexhaustive typology of the social characterizations of individuals within the pricing system; these ideal types—the fool, the faithful, the frugal, and the frivolous—and their components offer a systematic approach to understanding prices as embedded in and constituents of social meaning systems.



Member Spotlights

Dr. Tanya Chavdarova is an associate professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski", where she teaches: Economic Sociology (BA in sociology), Labor Markets and Informal Employment and Cross-cultural management (MA level). She is a director of a MA Program on "Labor Markets and Human Resources Development". Her research interests are concentrated on the informal economy and the social construction of entrepreneurship in the post-commu-

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Steffen Roth is a Research Associate, Head of the Research Focus "Innovation, Markets and Network Society" at the Berne University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland. He is also a PhD student at the Université de Genève, Switzerland with a thesis project titled "The Markets of Society" (Mentor: Prof. Dr. Sandro Cattacin, Co-Mentor: Prof. Dr. Dirk Baecker, Zeppelin Universität Friedrichshafen, Germany). His education and former assignments include: Diploma in Sociology at the Chemnitz University of Technology, Diploma Thesis on "Destruction of Networks as a Special Case of Network Management", Research Assistant at the Chair for Organizational Sociology at the University of Trier, Germany, and at the Chair for Innovation Research at the Chemnitz University of Technology. He has taught Qualitative Methods of Organizational Research, Consultancy Trainings, Social Software, General Sociology, Globalization & Regionalization (Classics, Critical Theory, Bourdieueconomics, Social Systems Theory). You may reach him at steffen.roth@bfh.ch

Johann Maree, Professor of Sociology, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Research and teaching interests include strategies for job creation; industrial strategies and industrial restructuring; skills development in terms of both education and training; employment relations with a focus on trade unions and collective bargaining; and work organization and worker participation. Although some of these interests are researched and taught globally, many of them are focused on South Africa in particular, sometimes Southern or Sub-Saharan Africa. Maree is presently co-authoring a book on collective bargaining in South Africa and co-editing a book on decent work in Africa. Their likely date of pub-

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Hiroshi Ono (Ph.D. Chicago) is currently Assistant Professor of sociology at Texas A&M University. Prior to his current position, he was on the faculty at the Stockholm School of Economics where he was awarded the title of Docent (or second Ph.D.) in Economics. His research integrates sociology and microeconomics to study the causes and consequences of inequality with particular focus on labor market inequality. He is interested in studying the organizational conditions that motivate employee commitment, performance and trust, and the extent to which education and training enhances earnings and mobility. His papers have appeared in the American Sociological Review, Economics of Education Review, Social Forces, Social Science Quarterly, Social Science Research and Sociological Perspectives, among others. You may reach him at hono@tamu.edu

Readings on the anthropology of financial markets

The Society for Economic Anthropology recently had a lively discussion on their listserv discussing anthropological perspectives on the global financial crisis. The conversation was initiated by Andres Gramajo, who also concluded the conversation by assembling a list of texts mentioned in the exchange. As you may note, several sociologists and economists entered the discussion. Given the increasing interest in issues related to finance, I included Andres' list without amendments.

Sociologists interested in finance may be interested in examining three websites that maintain bibliographies, calls for papers, conferences, and other information regarding sociological perspectives of finance:

Social Studies of Finance (UK): <http://www.sociology.ed.ac.uk/finance/>

Social Studies of Finance Association (France): <http://ssfa.free.fr/>

Socializing Finance Blog:
<http://socfinance.wordpress.com/>

For those interested in Finance & Development, see Eldis on Financial Policy: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/finance-policy>

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Abolafia, M. Y. Financial Markets. In: Jens Beckert and Milan Zafiroski (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Economic Sociology*. London: Routledge, forthcoming.

Abolafia, M. Y. Making Sense of Recession: Policy Making at the Federal Reserve. In: Victor Nee and Richard Swedberg (Eds.), *The Economic Sociology of Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Abolafia, M. Y. (2004). Framing Moves: Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 14(3): 349-370.

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Street. In: G. Gmelch and W.P. Senner (Eds.), *Urban Life*. Prospect Heights, Ill.: Waveland Press.

Abolafia, M. Y. (1996). *Making markets: Opportunism and restraint on Wall Street*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

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Baker, W. E. (1984). The Social Structure of a National Securities Market. *American Journal of Sociology*, 89(4): 775-811.



Callon, M. (2007). What does it mean to say that economics is performative? Do economists make markets? In: Mackenzie, D., Muniesa, F., and Siu L. (Eds.), *On the performativity of economics*, pp. 311-357. Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Callon, M., & Muniesa, F. (2005). Economic Markets as Calculative Collective Devices. *Organization Studies*, 26(8): 1229-1250.

Crotty James (2003), *The Neoliberal Paradox: The Impact of Destructive Product Market Competition and Impatient Finance on Nonfinancial Corporations in the Neoliberal Era*. PERI Research Brief, UMass, Amherst.

Fisher, Melissa. (2006). Navigating Wall Street Women's Gendered Networks in the New Economy. In: Melissa Fisher and Greg Downey (Eds.), *Frontiers of Capital: Ethnographic Reflections on the New Economy*, pp. 209-236. Durham: Duke University Press.

Garsten, Christina & Lindh Montoya (Eds.) (2004). *Market Matters: Exploring Cultural Processes in the Global Market Place*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Gudeman, Stephen. (2008). *Economy's Tension: The Dialectics of Community and Markets*. Oxford, UK.; Berghahn Books.

Guyer, Jane. (2009 forthcoming). The Craving for Intelligibility: Speech and Silence on the Economy under Structural Adjustment and Military Rule in Nigeria. In: Steven Gudeman (Ed.) *Economic Persuasions*. Oxford: Berghahn Books. With LaRay Denzer.

Guyer, Jane. (2009 forthcoming). Composites, fictions and risk: towards an ethnography of price. In: Chris Hann and Keith Hart (Eds.), *Market and Society: The Great Transformation Today*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Guyer, Jane. (2008). *Cash Economies*.



CALL
FOR
PAPERS

Call for Papers The Economics of Religion: Anthropological Appraisals (a volume in the Research in Economic Anthropology series)

Research in Economic Anthropology (REA), published by Emerald Press, is a peer-reviewed book series dedicated to the anthropological – including archaeological – investigation of economy and society. It has been in publication since 1978. REA was previously edited by George Dalton, Barry Isaac, Norbert Dannhaeuser and Cynthia Werner.

Anthropological papers addressing the economics of religion in religious beliefs, behaviour, practices, organisations, or institutional dynamics are being sought for Volume 30 of REA.

The editors aim at expanding anthropological theories beyond the classical relationships between economy and religion to embrace new perspectives on religious behaviour from an economics point-of-view, and at appraising the relevance of the economics of religion.

THEREFORE, PREFERRED TOPICS INCLUDE:

Economic Theories of Religion including * Market Theory * Rational Choice Theory * Game Theory * Religious Consumerism * Symbolic Economy * Religious Ritual Economy

ALSO WELCOME, HOWEVER, ARE MORE CLASSICAL TOPICS SUCH AS:

Religious Economies & The Influence of Economics on * Beliefs * Practices * Rituals * Organisations * Diffusions

DEADLINE: MARCH 2, 2009

Any previously unpublished manuscript that is economic, anthropological, and religious-oriented may be considered, but papers that (1) utilize original data obtained through empirical ethnographic research methods, and (2) in some way engage the general economic anthropology literature, will be especially welcome. The editors will seek an overall balance for the volume in geographical and topical focus.

Ideally, papers should not exceed 10,000 words (excluding notes and references). They should also be double-spaced, and all tables, figures, photographs, or other images must be of publishable quality and clear for publication regarding copyright laws. Authors need to include an abstract of about 100 words. Notes are to be arranged as endnotes, preceding references. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please use MS Word.

Either UK spelling or USA spelling will be acceptable.

Contact Donald C. Wood, REA series editor (wood@med.akita-u.ac.jp) or Lionel Obadia, volume co-editor (lionel.obadia@univ-lyon2.fr) for more information or to submit a manuscript.

Paper for the conference on Rethinking Economic Anthropology, A Human-Centered Approach. London.

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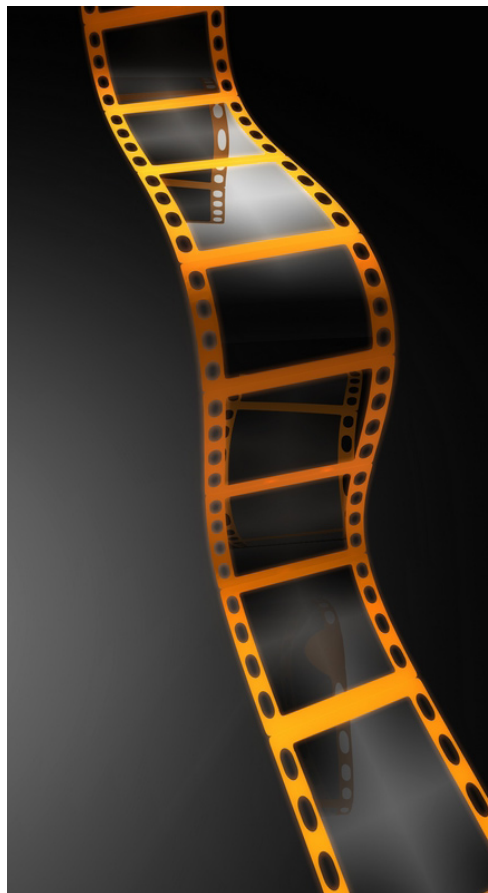
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Short films on financial markets
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regular sessions, plus an opening session in which ambassador Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães, External Relations Secretary-General of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussed the multi-polar world and South-American integration, with a focus on the new opportunities that are open to Brazilian entrepreneurs. Within the Opening Session, Professors Eli Diniz (UFRJ) and Renato Boschi (IUPERJ) were acknowledged for their contribution to the study of business elites in Brazil. Working together in research projects, articles and books since the 1970s, Diniz and Boschi are outstanding representatives of a generation of scholars who broke with the analytical models which attributed a minor role to the business elites in the political economy of the industrialization process, recognizing that it was a relevant actor in the

The contributions revealed the importance given by Brazilian social scientists to the understanding of the rapid and deep changes taking place in this new century.

VI WORKSHOP ENTERPRISES, ENTREPRENEURS AND SOCIETY State and Market in the Postmarket Reforms: Brazil and the International Order

Ana Maria Kirschner (UFF)
Cristiano Fonseca Monteiro (UFF)

The 6th *Workshop Enterprises, entrepreneurs and society* was held at Fluminense Federal University in the city of Niterói-RJ, on April 7-9, 2008, with the participation of more than 50 researchers from Brazil, France and other countries. The event was comprised of twelve

country's economic history of the 20th century, even if not a hegemonic one.

The workshop's main theme was *State and market after the reforms*. The contributions revealed the importance given by Brazilian social scientists to the understanding of the rapid and deep changes taking place in the country in this beginning of a new century. It is important to highlight that the previous workshops were centered on the "discovery" of enterprises as social actors, in a context of retreat of the State, and increasing expectations towards the private sector. Such expectations unfolded into different subjects and, in 2008, we would like to

I'll discuss the social world of enterprise and the relationship between business, politics and development.

discuss basically two: the social world of enterprise and the relationship between business, politics and development.

The first subject was discussed in four sessions. In the first one, *Enterprises and the challenges of the new century*, two representatives of the French school of the *Sociologie de l'Entreprise* were present. They proposed a typology of the social world of the enterprises in the 21st century, while questioning whether the actors within this social world are able to manage their professional trajectories. Two sessions were dedicated to Corporate Social Responsibility (*Internal and external dimensions of CSR and CSR and its contentions*), which contributions covered such aspects as environmental responsibility, third sector, solidary economy and critical assessments of CRS.

In the session *The internationalization of enterprises in today's world*, one of the participants discussed the case of the Algerian enterprises, predominantly state-owned, in an economy which has strong socialist characteristics. In such a context, resistance to privatization comes up in different manners, while the media identifies those enterprises as corrupt or inefficient. Other participants discussed both local and international insertion of different industries, such as mining and wine.

The second main subject, the relationship between business, politics, and development, evidences a rupture as we move into the 21st century. Because of the disappointing results of the national trajectories that lined up with the Washington Consensus in Latin America and East Europe, and, on the other hand, the vigorous economic performance of national economies that pursued alternative paths to neoliberalism, politics and institutional diversity have been "brought back in". Such a rupture has certainly influenced the whole set of papers present-

ed at the workshop, but three sessions have more directly discussed the political dimension of such changes.

The session on "*Theory and practice' about the question of development*" presented papers about the return of the State as a central actor in the promotion of development, the dialogue between the different versions of neo-institutionalism, and its application in the analysis of the contemporary capitalism in Latin America, especially in Brazil. A session was dedicated to the topic *Business and new arenas of political action*, in which the participants discussed new strategies of action, and their influence on the public agenda, highlighting the interaction between public and private spheres by means of lobbies, and their influence on the design of specific public policies. Finally, in the session named *Power and regulation in the services sector: finances and telecommunications*, the discussion covered topics such as transparency and accountability in the relationship between government and private agents in the financial sector, and an evaluation of the privatization process in the telecom sector.

Four sessions were in the frontier of the two subjects cited above, discussing matters involving institutional settings, development, and entrepreneurial strategies. The session *Business, development and new public/private institutional settings* brought together Brazilian and foreign researchers discussing such topics as territorial pacts, innovation and professional education, while the session *The sectorial dynamics of industry and its local and international insertion* privileged specific industries (agricultural machinery and automobile) and the relationship between localities and the global economy.

One of the sessions was dedicated to Agribusiness (*Business and the new frontiers of the economy: the case of Agribusi-*

ness), discussing the role of institutions in the recent catch-up of the sector in Brazil, and the constitution of the market for functional food. Finally, two parallel sessions discussing *State, market and society in the post-reforms context*, convened representatives of the most recent generation of researchers dedicated to the event's general theme. The participants discussed such topics as business and political action, and the links between the public sector and private interests, by means of empirical analyses that shed light on new actors and innovative forms of action that have emerged in recent years.

As a concluding remark, we would like to mention the increasing degree of internationalization of the Workshop. Its 6th edition was supported by the *Association Internationale des Sociologues de Langue Française* and the Research Committee on Sociology of Organization RC17 of the International Sociological Association. In addition, the forum continues to incorporate contributions from different regions of Brazil, as well as new, young researchers.

For more information, the interested reader may go to www.fee.rs.gov.br/6workshop

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