

# SECTORS

*Newsletter of the American Sociological Association's  
Sociology of Development Section*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

*David Brown*

Dear Members:

I am honored to be serving as chair of the Section on the Sociology of Development this year. I have participated in many scholarly organizations over a long career, but none can match our Section's norm of inclusiveness. Inclusivity is what brought us together in the first place, and what shapes and motivates our activities now. To my knowledge, we are the only ASA section with a *norm of intellectual diversity* built right into our bylaws, "The Section embraces all sociologists who define themselves as scholars of development regardless of theoretical orientation, methodological preference, region of study, or historical period of study." This norm creates an exciting environment that nurtures scholarly creativity, intellectual risk taking, and creative partnerships between scholars coming from diverse perspectives and backgrounds.



### Policy Briefs Series:

It is with intellectual diversity in mind that we are developing a Policy Briefs Series. We believe that engagement is an integral part of the research process, hence we propose to establish a *Policy Briefs Series* to build bridges between development sociologists examining the social determinants and consequences of development and professionals engaged in formulating development policy and practice. We see this as mutually beneficial since real life experiences of development professionals will inform scholarly research at the same time that research-based evidence helps to shape and motivate policy interventions. An ad hoc committee has prepared a proposal to establish the Policy Briefs Series, and submitted it to the ASA's Committee on Publications. Our proposal will be considered during the Committee's December meeting. We are hopeful of prompt approval early in 2016.

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Handbook of Development Sociology:

In addition to [hopefully] launching our *Policy Briefs Series*, we are anticipating publication of *The Handbook of Development Sociology* by the University of California Press. Special thanks to Greg Hooks who has served as the volume's general editor and to Shushanik Makaryan who served as assistant editor. The *Handbook* was made possible by the active participation and ongoing guidance provided by its stellar editorial board: Paul Almeida, David Brown, Sam Cohn, Sara Curran, Rebecca Jean Emigh, Ho-Fung Hung, Andrew Jorgenson, Richard Lachmann, Linda Lobao, and Valentine Moghadam. And, of course thanks go out to the many scholars who produced first rate chapters. Publication is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2016 – hopefully in time for next year's ASA meetings.

Section Day at the 2016 ASA Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA:

Our Section's activities will be concentrated on Tuesday, August 23. We have an exciting line up of sessions and events to more than make up for taking our turn on the conference's last day. We have four regular paper sessions on the program including one that we are co-sponsoring with Environment and Technology and another with Human Rights. Our remaining paper sessions focus on "Emerging Issues in Development Sociology" and "Population and Development: Beyond Malthus and Beyond Modernization." In addition to the regular paper sessions, we will have five section sessions including a refereed roundtable organized by Jocelyn Viterna. As in past years, each of our tables will include experienced mentors to work with less experienced scholars. See page 11 for a list of all section sessions. Immediately following the roundtables, will be our Section's business meeting and awards ceremony. We want to strongly encourage everyone to attend the meeting, and participate in the section's governance. Of course, we are also planning a gala reception. This year we will co-host this event with Political Economy of the World System (PEWS) Section. Details about time and place will be included in our Spring newsletter.

2016 Annual Development Sociology Conference:

Our section has sponsored an annual Development Conference each year since our inception. Starting at Cornell, we next met at the University of Virginia, then at the University of Utah, and last year at Brown University. Our next Development Conference is scheduled for October 6 – 8, 2016 at Cornell University. Wendy Wolford is leading this effort for the Section. The conference's overall theme, "Development in Question," will be articulated by presentations from an exciting group of international scholars. Once again, motivated by our Section's "norm of diversity," the conference will provide ample space for a diverse group of scholars to share their work in the regular paper sessions. See pages 23-24 for the call for papers. We encourage as wide participation as possible. The Conference will have a listserv containing instructions for participation. A link to this listserv will soon be available on the Sociology of Development Section's website.

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## NEW MEMBERS



**Chair-elect**  
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Harvard University



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
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Kansas State  
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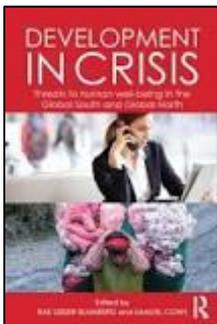


**Council Member**  
Rina Agarwala  
John Hopkins  
University



**Council Member**  
Erin McDonnell  
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## 2015 SECTION PUBLICATIONS



Blumberg, Rae Lesser, and Samuel Cohn, eds. 2015. *Development in Crisis: Threats to Human Well-being in the Global South and Global North*. Routledge.

<http://www.tandf.net/books/details/9781138778368/>

The genesis of the volume was the 2012 Annual Development Sociology Conference – our second – held at the University of Virginia.

This is a provocative, engaging and interesting collection of real-world case studies in development and globalization focusing on under-emphasized threats to growth and human welfare worldwide. Created by two of America's top development sociologists, it targets undergraduates, graduates, academics and development professionals. Crises such as falling state capacity, declining technological innovation, increasing class inequality and persisting gender inequality are considered, along with their economic and social consequences.



**Sociology of Development  
Journal**

<http://soedev.ucpress.edu/>

Our very own journal, *Sociology of Development*, was born in 2015 and is published by the University of California Press.

This is an international journal addressing issues of development, broadly considered. With basic as well as policy-oriented research, topics explored include economic development and well-being, gender, health, inequality, poverty, environment and sustainability, political economy, conflict, social movements, and more.

Editors: Andrew Jorgenson & Jeff Kentor

eISSN: 2374-538X

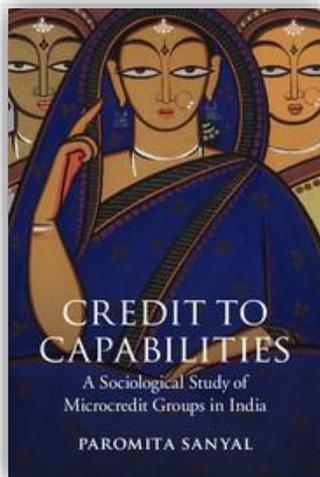
Frequency: Quarterly

Published: March, June, September, December

Note: See page 25 for a Table of Content for the Winter 2015 issue.

## 2015 SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT SECTION AWARDS

## 2015 Sociology of Development Book Award



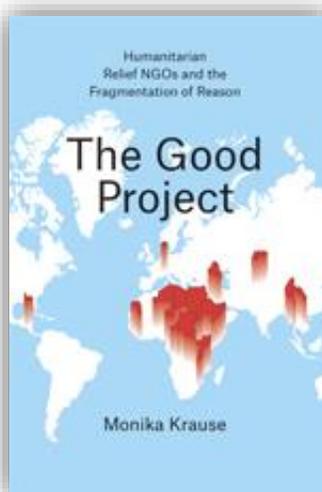
**Paromita Sanyal** (Cornell University). 2014. *Credit to Capabilities: A Sociological Study of Microcredit Groups in India*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

(<http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/sociology/political-sociology/credit-capabilities-sociological-study-microcredit-groups-india>)

The award committee considers *Credit to Capabilities* to be a groundbreaking study of a much-discussed but under-researched topic. The book provides a systematic examination of the relationship between microcredit groups and women's agency through a detailed analysis of over two microcredit programs in India. The author draws on over 400 interviews to open the 'black box' of the assumed relationships between microcredit and women's agency. Sanyal explores two mechanisms in particular, the financial and associational aspects of microcredit programs and argues that the latter is what provides positive returns for women's positions in society. The book is richly detailed and beautifully written, delivering a grounded view of the social situation in which women live as well as the impacts of microcredit and the total experience of the women in these groups. *Credit to Capabilities* offers a theory of

agency that underscores the ways in which women carve out autonomous spaces in the context of gender and social exploitation and material deprivation. Linking the analysis to the scholarly debates on gender inequalities, Amartya Sen's theory of capabilities, and economic sociology, the book speaks to audiences both in and outside of development sociology including scholars interested in microcredit, gender, institutions, and livelihoods. The policy applications for practitioners are also clear: it is important to strengthen the means of enhancing the associational mechanisms of microcredit groups. For audiences from the local to the national level as well as to practitioners working in developmental agencies, local microcredit groups, and even banks that underwrite microcredit programs, *Credit to Capabilities* provides insights on decision-making processes, the broader social and economic contexts in which these decisions are situated, and the consequences on people's lives.

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**Honorable Mention for the 2015 Sociology of Development Book Award**


**Monika Sabine Krause** (Goldsmiths College, University of London). 2014. *The Good Project: Humanitarian Relief and the Fragmentation of Reason*. Illinois: Chicago University Press.

(<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/G/bo17888868.html>)

The award committee enthusiastically endorses *The Good Project*, a book that focuses on humanitarian work conducted by International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Krause investigates the logic and practices of humanitarian NGOs through interviews with 50 managers at 16 of the largest NGOs; she argues that humanitarian work should be understood as a form of production and that aid agencies operate in a quasi-market where they are "selling" their projects to donors and the general public. The resulting search for "the good project" highlights the constructed nature of the relationship between production, consumption and crisis. Krause presents the perspective of workers in the humanitarian field with real insight, sympathy and rigor. The book also discusses the under-appreciated distinction between NGOs that work in "development" and NGOs that work in humanitarian or relief work. Rich in detailed theory and empirics, the book makes

an important and fascinating intervention into the literature on aid, revealing the logic of humanitarian relief and the structural conditions necessary for this logic to exist, arguing for new politics of organizational practice.

*Committee: Wendy W. Wolford (Chair), Diana Mincyte, Matthew Sanderson, and Bernie White.*

## 2015 Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award

**Gabriel Hetland** (University at Albany, SUNY). 2014. “The Crooked Line: From Populist Mobilization to Participatory Democracy in Chavez-Era Venezuela,” in *Qualitative Sociology* 37(4): 373-401.

This article examines how participatory democracy works in two Venezuelan municipalities. It shows that participatory governance can be successful in cities governed by Left and Right parties and in contexts where civic associations lack full autonomy from the state and ruling party. It explains these unexpected findings as indirect consequences of populist mobilization. Specifically, Hetland argues that a populist regime might instigate a grassroots backlash in which a post-populist regime takes on board the unfulfilled expectations generated by its populist predecessor. In so doing, it challenges the “incompatibility” thesis of populism and democracy and revisits some of the central claims in the participatory democracy literature, that successful participatory democracy requires a Left party. Methodologically, the case selection is persuasive, the analysis pays close attention to temporal sequences and events and makes good use of ethnographic methods such as interviews and participant observation.

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### Honorable Mention for the 2015 Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award

**Becky Hsu** (Georgetown University). 2014. “Alleviating Poverty or Reinforcing Inequality: Interpreting Microfinance in practice, with illustrations from China,” in *The British Journal of Sociology* 65(2): 245-265.

*Committee: Manisha Desai (Chair), Andrew Jorgenson, and Poulami Roychowdhury*

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## 2015 Sociology of Development Graduate Student Paper Award



Left: Rae Blumberg  
Right: Julia Behrman.  
Photo credit: Svetla Dimitrova

This year the ASA Section on Development Sociology acknowledged excellence in graduate student research to three young scholars: **Julia Behrman** and **Abigail Weitzman** (both of NYU), and **Gowri Vijaykumar** (University of California-Berkeley).

Behrman and Weitzman’s paper, “The Effects of Severe Natural Disaster on Fertility: Evidence from the 2010 Haiti Earthquake” used a carefully designed methodological approach to examine this important issue. Their main finding, that contraceptive access is significantly impeded during post-natural disaster periods, makes a strong contribution to the emerging field of population, development and environment. This paper was presented at the 2015 meeting of the Population Association of America.

Vijaykumar’s paper, “I’ll Be Like Water: Gender, Class, and Flexible Aspirations at the Edge of India’s Knowledge Economy” is a masterful analysis that examines the ways in which ideologies of aspiration, inclusion, and women’s empowerment associated with India’s globalizing knowledge economy are re-framed by young women workers in a small-town business-process outsourcing (BPO) center two hours outside of Bangalore. This paper was published in December 2013 in *Gender and Society* 27(6): 777-798.

*Committee: David L. Brown (Chair), Phyllis Baker, Mil Duncan, Jennifer Hsu, Jennifer Keahy, Shiri Noy, Anthony Spies, and Junmin Wang.*

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## FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY

### In Defense of Microcredit over Cash Transfers, by Paromita Sanyal (Cornell University)

Microcredit – offering very small loans to groups of borrowers, typically groups of women, in the developing world – has been the biggest trend in development policy for the last twenty years. But lately, microcredit has been losing its luster. The latest development trend that has been competing for policy attention is conditional and unconditional cash transfer programs. According to some scholars, cash transfers can promote educational enrollment and health outcomes of children and boost household income. Countries in Latin America and Africa have long running and an ever-growing number of cash transfer programs.

Recent randomized control trial studies by economists have found mixed evidence on microcredit's impact on alleviating poverty in any permanent and secure way, and anthropological studies disparage microcredit's use of shame as a monitoring and disciplinary tool. So why prefer microcredit to cash transfers? Why not give poor people free money that is non-repayable, and that they can use on things they decide are important? Why give them credit that is usually stipulated for productive investment and which must be repaid with interest? My answer to these questions, elaborated in my book *Credit to Capabilities*, is that microcredit has important social effects that cash transfers cannot replicate (Sanyal 2014).

Development, conceived in the broadest sense, is not solely about alleviating financial poverty, but must also seek to promote freedom and equity. Worldwide, there is a gap in gender equity. Consequently, women's empowerment has been recognized to be an important development goal and policy action should focus on achieving equity in capabilities and agency. Microcredit and cash transfers are significantly different on the goal of fostering women's empowerment and dismantling extreme forms of gender barriers, particularly in contexts of classic patriarchy, where women's ability to participate in markets, state institutions, and civil society is severely hampered.

*Microcredit programs that operate through the formation of women's groups have a greater potential than cash transfer programs for promoting women's capabilities and inaugurating a new associational life in the public sphere for women.*

The potent mix of the financial incentives of saving and credit combined with mandatory group meetings has the capacity to dismantle social barriers against women's freedom and enhance their capabilities through regular face-to-face interactions and deliberations. These deliberations include discussion of financial issues and discussion of issues relevant to life in the community. Qualitative and quantitative research on group-based microcredit in India and Bangladesh have shown that program participation enhances women's physical mobility, capacity to interact with a broad range of people outside of kin groups, and improved decision-making powers on certain dimensions.

*Microcredit has also been found to improve women's social capital – cooperating for collective action and the underlying social network and relationships of trust among women.*

For a certain proportion of women enrolled in these groups there is a dramatic improvement in their capacity for spontaneously organizing collective action targeted at member and non-member households (especially for rescuing women from domestic violence) and aimed at addressing community concerns (for remedying public goods deficits and anti-alcohol campaigns) (Sanyal 2009). Microcredit groups have also been reported to facilitate women's mobilizations against witch-hunts in tea plantations (Chaudhuri 2013) and against loan-sharks and coercive disciplinary practices of commercialized microfinance institutions (Ajit and Rajeev 2012). Lately, even economists have come to acknowledge that group-based microcredit fosters social capital. A five-country field experiment found that group-based microcredit

strengthened general “societal trust” among women (Cassar and Wydick 2010). Another set of field experiments in India found that microcredit groups (particularly groups that had more frequent meetings) promoted friendship formation and economic ties among the enrolled women (Feigenberg, Field, and Pande 2013).

Using these social benefits of microcredit as a yardstick of comparison with cash transfer programs highlights the difference in the scope of their impacts. First, although cash transfers may be financially beneficial to indigent families and might possibly translate to some degree of individual empowerment for women (if the cash boosts women’s income earning potential), it is hard to imagine how individually targeted cash might improve women’s collective action capacity and social capital. Second, if women transfer the free cash to their husbands (as might happen under classic patriarchy), benefits for women’s empowerment would be severely limited. This is where microcredit differs because even though women in male-headed households commonly transfer the microcredit loans to their husbands, they nevertheless gain substantial measure of agency from being tied to the group network and from access to the associational life. Third, men’s attitudes regarding what is appropriate gender behavior often changes as a result of experiencing their wives and other neighboring women participate in microcredit groups over a prolonged period. This is an invaluable effect that creates an environment at home and in the community that is conducive to expressions of

women’s agency. It is hard to imagine how cash transfer programs could have a parallel effect on transforming husband’s conventional gender attitudes regarding their wives, which are one of the primary hindrances women confront. Overall, considering its effect on promoting women’s social empowerment, microcredit has a value added that cash transfer programs, as they are currently designed, cannot yet replace.

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## Making Medicines in East Africa: Foreign Aid in the Fight against HIV/AIDS and For Local Industrialization, by Nitsan Chorev (Brown University)

What good does foreign aid do? Can we make it better? Many people, from economists and journalists to foreign aid professionals and laypersons, are skeptical. But my study of local pharmaceutical production in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania leads me to conclude that foreign aid can be effective. First, foreign aid can help not only in supporting the delivery of services

and commodities – the current focus of foreign aid – but even in supporting industrial production. Second, the likelihood of foreign aid to make *lasting* interventions increases if aid agencies work together with government agencies rather than the current tendency to work in parallel to them. These arguments go against those, like Professor William Easterly of

New York University, who oppose foreign aid precisely on the grounds that foreign aid cannot compensate for deficiencies of domestic governments. But they also go beyond those defending foreign aid, like Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, who focus on the provision of direct services or commodities, not on supporting an industry that would provide those commodities, and who pay surprisingly little attention to local governments.

The pharmaceutical sectors in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are not an obvious choice for foreign aid. The first local drug companies in these countries were established in the 1980s, and while they have a reasonable presence in the local markets, these are mostly small, privately-owned companies. Indeed, while an international interest in local pharmaceutical production in the late 1970s triggered the establishment of the first pharmaceutical companies in the region, the sectors were relatively neglected since then – both by international donors and by their own governments.

Then AIDS spread in sub-Saharan Africa and globally. AIDS led to the further devastation of an already vulnerable sub-continent, but unlike other conditions that inflict poor countries, AIDS could be contained, with anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). The extremely high price of ARVs, combined with patent protection that initially prevented sales of generic copies of the drugs, led to bitter and still-ongoing debates. One way to address the inability of many governments to afford ARVs and related medicines was the donation of these drugs by rich countries. Drug donation, like the distribution of anti-mosquito bed-nets, is compatible with Sachs' vision of effective foreign aid. Thanks to donations, mostly handled by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), 60-70% of people who live with HIV/AIDS in East Africa do have access to the medication they need. What is interesting to us here is the fact that these donations also triggered local manufacturers to start producing drugs they hadn't produced before, and to produce them following much higher quality standards.

Three factors contributed to local drug manufacturers' change of practices in response to drugs donations.

The first was that Global Fund tenders for the donated drugs were open to *any* manufacturer, as long as the drugs were of sufficiently high quality. Local manufacturers got excited by this opportunity, and learned how to produce drugs of interest to the Global Fund. The second factor was that the Global Fund's condition of high quality was effectively monitored. Only drugs certified under the World Health Organization (WHO) Prequalification Program could participate in Global Fund tenders, and to get prequalification, careful inspection was conducted by experienced inspectors, who evaluated the quality, safety and efficacy of the medical products following relatively stringent standards. The third factor contributing to change of practices was that of technology transfer to help local companies reach the required quality standards. In a number of cases this was achieved through joint ventures with foreign companies. More often, technical know-how was provided by international or bilateral development agencies. The crucial role played by foreign aid is unmistakable. A market for good drugs was made possible thanks to the Global Fund; monitoring is on the shoulders of the WHO; and access to technology was largely facilitated by development agencies.

But reaching high standards is arguably the easy part. More challenging still is the need to sustain those standards. We often hear stories of promising foreign aid endeavors ending up having no effect at all, or worse. One damning article recently described, for example, how donated anti-malarial bed-nets have been used as fishing nets. The question is, then, how to sustain investment in quality manufacturing. Since most East African pharmaceutical companies are not yet exposed to market pressures in regard to quality standards, the only way to maintain the achievements of foreign aid is through effective state regulation and enforcement. State regulation and enforcement, in turn, also benefited from foreign aid, in the form of technical assistance. The WHO, for example, publishes detailed guidelines regarding registration, inspection, procurement, market surveillance and so on; and in Tanzania, the WHO helped with the prequalification of a quality control laboratory. Global Fund representatives, in turn, acted as procurement

officers and in that role also provided training and helped rationalize existing government practices.

Both William Easterly and Jeffrey Sachs are suspicious of the state. In contrast, I suggest that foreign aid matters, but unless we can envision perpetual foreign support rather than temporary interventions, what is needed for the achievements of foreign aid to hold over time is for foreign aid not to bypass the state but work to strengthen the state. While still limited, the technical assistance provided to government agencies

in East Africa has been instrumental in improving the functioning of these agencies. In the longer run, this might contribute to the sustainability of foreign aid interventions more than we currently want to believe.

The billions of dollars spent every year on medicines to those most in need have also helped with the goal of self-sufficiency, desired by both recipients and donors. For success in the longer term, however, investment needs to be made also in supporting the state agencies responsible for regulating market actors.

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## Development Sociology in Impact Evaluations, by Shruti Majumdar (World Bank)

Over the past two decades, evaluators in international development have emphasized the value of mixing quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the impact of donor-funded projects. While experimental methods remain the gold standard, there is a strong push in both academic and policy circles towards high-caliber qualitative evaluations. However, like all trends in international development, the conversation around mixed methods is far more sophisticated than the practice, since a vast majority of mixed methods evaluations still consider quantitative data and methods as central to determining impact. Barring a few [exceptions](#), evaluators deem qualitative data as illustrative at best, integrate qualitative methods as an afterthought and rarely draw on sociological theory to assess impact. It is no wonder that impact evaluations of this nature are often considered subjective, intuitive and anecdotal.

As a development sociologist in the World Bank, I have had the opportunity to be part of a qualitative evaluation of a Bank funded project in India. Five ethnographers, including myself, tracked ten villages – five treatment and five control – over three years. This qualitative piece is part of a larger multi-method evaluation conducted by the [Social Observatory](#) – a multi-disciplinary unit in the World Bank which embeds researchers/evaluators from different disciplines in projects and encourages learning between them and policy makers. As field coordinator in this unit, I conducted fieldwork in rural Bihar trying

to understand the impact of a participatory development project called [Jeevika](#).

Jeevika is an embodiment of the new architecture of development assistance – it attempts to alleviate poverty through bottom-up participation and institution building. More concretely, it forms networks of women’s Self-Help Groups, and mobilizes those networks to improve women’s quality of life in many ways including expanding credit and savings, generating incomes, developing skills, reducing malnutrition, and alleviating domestic violence. The aim of our evaluation is to understand the impact of Jeevika on women’s empowerment, and unpack its myriad forms and trajectories. Drawing on several sociological theories, concepts, and methodologies helped us better understand impact in treatment villages by comparing it to villages where the project was absent. What follows are some overarching conclusions from our experience in the field.

*The success of the project rests heavily on its frontline workers.*

The frontline workers of a poverty alleviation project, in our case the “community coordinators,” are uniquely positioned as translators between development policy and practice. Scrutinizing their dispositions, skills, motivations, and the meanings they attach to their practices *as they unfold* is critical for any evaluation, and participant observation as a mode of inquiry, wherein the evaluator embeds herself within

the project, is well equipped to do so. We used participant observation to observe day-to-day interactions between coordinators and Jeevika women both within and outside the formal space of the project, and found that the strength of the coordinator lies in openly addressing the *cultural* dimensions of inequality. For instance, their role went far beyond simply mobilizing women and increasing project membership; in order to sustain participation they also focused on changing otherwise rigid norms around mobility and domestic violence in the villages.

*It takes a village to empower a woman.*

A second conclusion is that programs that target women individually are not as effective as programs that target their entire context. To give an example, we found that one of the steps that the frontline workers took when entering a village was to carefully build alliances with key stakeholders. Rather than getting buy-in in the beginning alone, they focused on enrolling supporters throughout the project's life cycle, which helped sustain women's participation in the project. The qualitative study allowed us to understand *how* these alliances are built in a large-scale project such as Jeevika. While the quantitative evaluation was able to capture individual level impacts on women – like greater income, higher social capital or greater political participation – it misses this central facet of the story, the *mechanisms* that result in these impacts.

*Moments of failure are as crucial as moments of 'success.'*

In a project's monitoring system, failure is often assumed when the project or actor's intentions were not achieved. For instance, many women attempted to start a business, or reduce their informal debt burden, or fight elections as a result of Jeevika, but ultimately failed to earn an income or cut out the moneylender or win the election. However, failure of this nature does

not invalidate the act itself. On the contrary, by observing the everyday life of the project, we found that the attempt itself is in fact 'successful' in that it brings into the realm of possibility an entrepreneurial woman or a female politician and gives other women and children the 'capacity to aspire'. In addition, it is only rehearsal and repetition of these 'failures' that lay grounds for success – a subtle treatment effect that is hard to capture in the quantitative survey.

Overall, participatory development projects are infamous for generating unpredictable and vastly different trajectories of change. But the nuts and bolts of how and why these trajectories differ (or in our case, why empowerment is harder in some villages than others) needs careful qualitative fieldwork, so that the learning can be integrated into the project cycle mid-stream. The insights outlined above were particularly useful to the project when scaling up from a few districts to the whole state of Bihar, because it is often these nuances – the quality of the frontline workers, the drive to tackle the wider context, and to honor and repeat 'failures' – that are compromised as the program scales up and struggles to adapt to the needs of a larger base of participants.

#### References:

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**Note:** This policy brief draws on research co-authored with Vijayendra Rao and Paromita Sanyal. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the World Bank Group.

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**2016 ASA SECTION SESSIONS**  
**Submission Deadline: January 6, 2016, 3 PM EST**

**1. Climate Change and Development.**

This session examines the interrelationships between climate change and social transformation. Both climate change and development are broadly conceived to include a full range of climatic processes as well as a diverse set of social disruptions ranging from population displacement to transformation of food systems. A particular focus is on resilience, and agency of human populations affected by dramatic changes in climate.

*Session Organizer:* Andrew K. Jorgenson, Boston College, [andrew.jorgenson@bc.edu](mailto:andrew.jorgenson@bc.edu)

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**2. Development Where? Human Rights for Whom?**

Befitting the era of contemporary globalization, theories, policies, and practices such as development and human rights, which were once seen as primarily applicable to the developing world or the Global South, have now come home to the U.S. In this session, we are looking for papers that address contemporary issues such as precarity, gentrification/urbanization, displacement/eviction, immigration, gender, food security, civil and political liberties, and social injustices in the U.S. and globally, and the transnational linkages and collaborations that might be evident in these shifts.

*Session Organizer:* Lindsey P. Peterson, Mississippi State University, [lpeterson@soc.msstate.edu](mailto:lpeterson@soc.msstate.edu)

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**3. Population and Development: Beyond Malthus; Beyond Modernization.**

This session examines the interrelationships between population dynamics and national, regional and/or local development. Population change is conceptualized in an inclusive manner, as is development. The goal is to advance social demographic theory and research beyond conventional neo-Malthusian and modernization approaches.

*Session Organizer:* David L. Brown, Cornell University, [dlb17@cornell.edu](mailto:dlb17@cornell.edu)

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**4. Emerging Issues in the Sociology of Development.**

Societal development is a dynamic process, hence, new issues are constantly emerging that merit sociological examination. This session will focus on these emerging issues; theoretical frameworks that shape and motivate scholarship on them, and new methodological approaches that enhance resulting research.

*Session Organizer:* Matthew R. Sanderson, Kansas State University, [mattr@ksu.edu](mailto:mattr@ksu.edu)

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**5. Section on Sociology of Development Refereed Roundtables.\***

This roundtable session is shaped by our section's bi-laws which state that we encourage scholarship on all aspects of development; scholarship shaped and motivated by all theoretical perspectives; and research employing all methodological perspectives. Senior scholars will participate fully to provide mentoring for junior scholars.

*Session Organizer:* Jocelyn S. Viterna, Harvard University, [jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu)

\*Session will be 1-hour in length; followed by the Section's 40-minute business meeting

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## 2016 SECTION AWARDS

### Sociology of Development Book Award

Please send a brief letter of nomination and a copy of the book to each member of the committee **by March 1, 2016**. The published book copyright date must be 2014 or 2015. Self-nominations are encouraged.

*Chair:* Rina Agartala, Johns Hopkins University, [agarwala@jhu.edu](mailto:agarwala@jhu.edu)

*Members:* Yvonne A. Braun, University of Oregon, [ybraun@uoregon.edu](mailto:ybraun@uoregon.edu); Samuel Cohn, Texas A & M University, [cohn@tamu.edu](mailto:cohn@tamu.edu); Xiaoshuo Hou, St. Lawrence University, [xiaoshuo.hou@gmail.com](mailto:xiaoshuo.hou@gmail.com); Tammy L. Lewis, Brooklyn College, [TLewis@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:TLewis@brooklyn.cuny.edu); Yan Long, IU Bloomington, [ylong@indiana.edu](mailto:ylong@indiana.edu); Enrique S. Pumar, Catholic University of America, [pumar@cua.edu](mailto:pumar@cua.edu); and Gowri Vijayakumar, UC Berkeley, [gowri@berkeley.edu](mailto:gowri@berkeley.edu)

#### Mailing addresses for sending nominated books:

Rina Agartala Department of Sociology Johns Hopkins University 533 Mergenthaler Hall 3400 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21218	Samuel Cohn Department of Sociology Texas A & M University 4351 College Station, Texas 77843-4351	Tammy L. Lewis 1703 Glenwood Road Brooklyn, NY 11230	Gowri Vijayakumar 665 45th St Oakland, CA 94609
Yvonne A. Braun Dept of WGS 315 Hendricks Hall 1298 University of Oregon Eugene, OR 97403-1298	Xiaoshuo Hou Department of Sociology Skidmore College TLC 229 815 N Broadway Saratoga Springs, NY 12866	Yan Long 3436 E Homestead Drive Bloomington, IN 47401	Enrique S. Pumar Department of Sociology The Catholic Uof America Marist Hall B14 Washington, DC 20064

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### Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award

Please send a brief letter of nomination and an electronic version of the article to each member of the committee **by March 1, 2016**. The published article copyright date must be 2014 or 2015. Self-nominations are encouraged.

*Chair:* Manisha Desai, University of Connecticut, [manisha.desai@uconn.edu](mailto:manisha.desai@uconn.edu)

*Members:* Shawn Dorius, Iowa State University, [sdorius@iastate.edu](mailto:sdorius@iastate.edu)

Cristina Lucia, Lynn University, [clucia@lynn.edu](mailto:clucia@lynn.edu)

Diana Mincyte, New York City College of Technology, [dianamincyte@gmail.com](mailto:dianamincyte@gmail.com)

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### Sociology of Development Graduate Student Paper Award

Please send a brief letter of nomination and an electronic version of the article to each member of the committee **by March 1, 2016**. Papers can be self-nominated or nominated by others.

*Chair:* Jocelyn Viterna, Harvard University, [jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu)

*Members:* Kelly Austin, Lehigh University, [kfa212@lehigh.edu](mailto:kfa212@lehigh.edu)

Phyllis Baker, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, [pbaker@illinois.edu](mailto:pbaker@illinois.edu)

Matthew Mahutga, UC Riverside, [matthew.mahutga@ucr.edu](mailto:matthew.mahutga@ucr.edu)

Liam Swiss, Memorial University of Newfoundland, [lswiss@mun.ca](mailto:lswiss@mun.ca)

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## NEW MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

### New Books

**Almeida, Paul D. and Allen Cordero**, eds. 2015. *Handbook of Social Movements across Latin America*. Springer. (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401799119>)

This handbook covers social movement activities in Latin American countries that have had profound consequences on the political culture of the region. It examines the developments of the past twenty years, such as a renewed upswing in popular mobilization, the ending of violent conflicts and military governments, new struggles and a relatively more democratic climate. It shows that, from southern Chiapas to Argentina, social movements in the 1990s and especially in the 2000s, have reached new heights of popular participation. There is a lack of research on the politics of this region in the contemporary era of globalization, this volume partially fills the void and offers a rich resource to students, scholars and the general public in terms of understanding the politics of mass mobilization in the early twenty-first century. The contributors each address social movement activity in their own nation and together they present a multidisciplinary perspective on the topic. Each chapter uses a case study design to bring out the most prominent attributes of the particular social struggle(s), for instance the main protagonists in the campaigns, the grievances of the population and the outcomes of the struggles. This Handbook is divided into seven substantive themes, providing overall coherence to a broad range of social conflicts across countries, issues and social groups. These themes include: 1) theory of Latin American social movements; 2) neoliberalism; 3) indigenous struggles; 4) women's movements; 5) movements and the State; 6) environmental movements; and 7) transnational mobilizations.



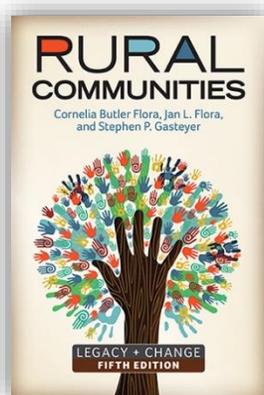

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**Flora, Cornelia Butler, Jan L. Flora, and Stephen Gasteyer**. 2015. *Rural Communities: Legacies and Change*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (<https://westviewpress.com/books/rural-communities-fifth-edition/>)

Communities in rural America are a complex mixture of peoples and cultures, ranging from miners who have been laid off in West Virginia, to Laotian immigrants relocating in Kansas to work at a beef processing plant, to entrepreneurs drawing up plans for a world-class ski resort in California's Sierra Nevada. *Rural Communities: Legacy and Change* uses its unique Community Capitals framework to examine how America's diverse rural communities use their various capitals—natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial, and built—to address the modern challenges that face them.

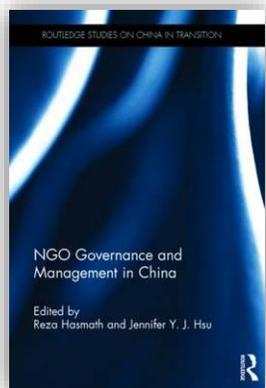
Each chapter opens with a case study of a community facing a particular challenge, and is followed by a comprehensive discussion of sociological concepts to be applied to understanding the case. This narrative, topical approach makes the book accessible and engaging for undergraduate students, while its integrative approach provides them with a framework for understanding rural society based on the concepts and explanations of social science.

This fifth edition is updated throughout with 2013 census data and features new and expanded coverage of health and health care, food systems and alternatives, the effects of neoliberalism and globalization on rural communities, as well as an expanded resource and activity section at the end of each chapter.



**Hasmath, Reza and Jennifer Y. J. Hsu.** 2015. *NGO Governance and Management in China*. London: Routledge. (<http://www.tandf.net/books/details/9781315693651/>)

As China becomes increasingly integrated into the global system there will be continuing pressure to acknowledge and engage with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Suffice to say, without a clear understanding of the state's interaction with NGOs, and vice versa, any political, economic and social analysis of China will be incomplete.



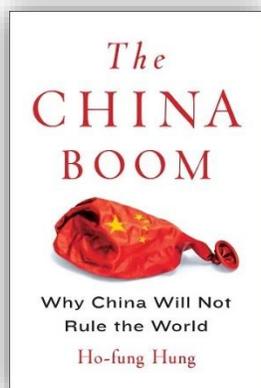
This book provides an urgent insight into contemporary state-NGO relations. It brings together the most recent research covering three broad themes, namely the conceptualizations and subsequent functions of NGOs; state-NGO engagement; and NGOs as a mediator between state and society in contemporary China. The book provides a future glimpse into the challenges of state-NGO interactions in China's rapidly developing regions, which will aid NGOs strategic planning in both the short- and long-term. In addition, it allows a measure of predictability in our assessment of Chinese NGOs behaviour, notably when they eventually move their areas of operation from the domestic sphere to an international one.

The salient themes, concepts, theories and practice discussed in this book will be of acute interest to students, scholars and practitioners in development studies, public administration, and Chinese and Asian politics.

**Hung, Ho-fung.** 2015. *The China Boom: Why China will not Rule the World*. New York: Columbia University Press. (<http://cup.columbia.edu/book/the-china-boom/9780231164184>).

Many thought China's rise would fundamentally remake the global order. Yet, much like other developing nations, the Chinese state now finds itself in a status quo characterized by free trade and American domination. Through a cutting-edge historical, sociological, and political analysis, Ho-fung Hung details the competing interests and economic realities that temper the dream of Chinese supremacy--forces that are stymieing growth throughout the global South.

Hung focuses on four common misconceptions: that China could undermine orthodoxy by offering an alternative model of growth; that China is radically altering power relations between the East and the West; that China is capable of diminishing the global power of the United States; and that the Chinese economy would restore the world's wealth after the 2008 financial crisis. His work reveals how much China depends on the existing order and how the interests of the Chinese elites maintain these ties. Through its perpetuation of the dollar standard and its addiction to U.S. Treasury bonds, China remains bound to the terms of its own prosperity, and its economic practices of exploiting debt bubbles are destined to fail. Hung ultimately warns of a postmiracle China that will grow increasingly assertive in attitude while remaining constrained in capability.



**Pigg, Kenneth, Stephen Gasteyer, Kenneth Martin, Godwin Apaliya, and Kari Keating.** 2015. *Community Effects of Leadership Development Education: Citizen Empowerment for Civic Engagement*. Rural Studies Series. Morgantown, WV: University of West Virginia Press. (<http://wvupressonline.com/node/557>)

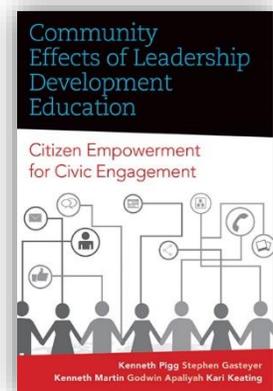
Community leadership development programs are designed to increase the capacity of citizens for civic engagement. These programs fill gaps in what people know about governance and the processes of governance, especially at the local level. The work of many in this field is a response to the recognition that in smaller, rural communities, disadvantaged neighborhoods, or disaster areas, the skills and aptitudes needed for citizens to be successful leaders are often missing or underdeveloped.

*Community Effects of Leadership Development Education* presents the results of a five-year study tracking community-level effects of community leadership development programs drawn from research conducted in Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina, Ohio, and West Virginia.

As the first book of its kind to seek answers to the question of whether or not the millions of dollars invested each year in community leadership development programs are valuable in the real world, this book challenges researchers, community organizers, and citizens to identify improved ways of demonstrating the link from program to implementation, as well as the way in which programs are conceived and designed.

This text also explores how leadership development programs relate to civic engagement, power and empowerment, and community change, and it demonstrates that community leadership development programs really do produce community change. At the same time, the findings of this study strongly support a relational view of community leadership, as opposed to other traditional leadership models used for program design.

To complement their findings, the authors have developed CENCE, a new model for community leadership development programs, which links leadership development efforts to community development by understanding how Civic Engagement, Networks, Commitment, and Empowerment work together to produce community viability.




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## New Articles and Book Chapters

**Alario, Margarita V., Leda Nath, and Steve Carlton-Ford.** Forthcoming. "Climatic Disruptions, Natural Resources, and Conflict: the Challenges to Governance." *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* (available online at DOI 10.1007/s13412-015-0252-x).

Natural resources are identified as a significant variable explaining intrastate conflict since the end of the Cold War. There are sound reasons for this to be the case, as social scientists struggle to make sense of conflicts in the post-Cold War era. As climatic disruptions and climate change are predicted to create extreme conditions and adversely affect natural resources accessibility, we wonder whether the capacity of nations to govern their natural resources rent-driven economies is of explanatory value. Hence, we hypothesize that what we have termed the governance capacity curse (GCC) may play an equal or greater role in our understanding of natural resources-driven internal wars than the so-called natural resources curse (NRC).

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**Almeida, Paul D.** 2015. "Unintended Consequences of State-Led Development: A Theory of Mobilized Opposition to Neoliberalism." *Sociology of Development* 1(2): 259-276.

The mass mobilizations against neoliberal reforms are rooted in the weakening of the state-led development model and the erosion of social citizenship rights. At the same time, infrastructures created by the developmental state provide the organizational capacity to resist market-driven globalization. The study develops a conceptual framework for understanding the major arenas of state-led development in the twentieth century in relation to the infrastructures and organizations that mobilize social movement campaigns against neoliberalism in the twenty-first century. Special attention is given to public education, health care, public utilities, state subsidies, and transportation networks as laying the foundation for civil society's ability to collectively defend social protections granted in the preglobalization era in the global South.

**Asad, Asad L. and Tamara Kay.** 2015. "Toward a Multidimensional Understanding of Culture for Health Interventions." *Social Science & Medicine* 144:79-87.

Although a substantial literature examines the relationship between culture and health in myriad individual contexts, a lack of comparative data across settings has resulted in disparate and imprecise conceptualizations of the concept for scholars and practitioners alike. This article examines scholars and practitioners' understandings of culture in relation to health interventions. Drawing on 169 interviews with officials from three different nongovernmental organizations working on health issues in multiple countries—Partners in Health, Oxfam America, and Sesame Workshop—we examine how these respondents' interpretations of culture converge or diverge with recent developments in the study of the concept, as well as how these understandings influence health interventions at three different stages—design, implementation, and evaluation—of a project. Based on these analyses, a tripartite definition of culture is built—as knowledge, practice, and change—and these distinct conceptualizations are linked to the success or failure of a project at each stage of an intervention. In so doing, the study provides a descriptive and analytical starting point for scholars interested in understanding the theoretical and empirical relevance of culture for health interventions, and sets forth concrete recommendations for practitioners working to achieve robust improvements in health outcomes.

**Austin, Kelly F.** 2015. "Dependency, Urban Slums, and the Forgotten Plagues: A Cross-National Analysis of Tuberculosis and Malaria in Less-Developed Nations." *Sociological Perspectives* 58(2): 286-310.

Tuberculosis (TB) and malaria remain leading causes of death in certain areas of the world system and directly contribute to persistent patterns in global inequality. I employ structural equation modeling for a sample of 135 nations to appropriately test for indirect and complex relationships among economic, social, and environmental indicators. The results demonstrate that economic dependency and environmental decline lead to increased urban slum populations in less developed nations, and that nations with larger urban slum populations have higher rates of TB and malaria. Important interrelationships also are evidenced among additional predictors, such as socio-health characteristics, economic development, and location in Sub-Saharan Africa. Overall, this research demonstrates that current epidemiological patterns in TB and malaria prevalence have important sociological underpinnings. Public policy should be directed toward addressing the social causes of these diseases, including improved access to schooling, health care, and other basic resources, especially in urban areas characterized by slum conditions.

**Bridle-Fitzpatrick, Susan.** 2015. "Food deserts or food swamps?: A mixed-methods study of local food environments in a Mexican city." *Social Science and Medicine* 142: 202-213.

Differential access to healthy foods has been hypothesized to contribute to disparities in eating behaviors and health outcomes. While food deserts have been researched extensively in developed Anglophone countries, evidence from low- and middle-income countries is still scarce. In Mexico, prevalence of obesity is among the highest worldwide. As obesity has increased nationally and become a widespread public health issue, it is becoming concentrated in the low income population. This mixed-methods study uses a multidimensional approach to analyze food environments in a low-, middle-, and high-income community in a Mexican city. The study advances understanding of the role that food environments may play in shaping eating patterns by analyzing the density and proximity of food outlet types as well as the variety, quantity, quality, pricing, and promotion of different foods. These measures are combined with in-depth qualitative research with families in the communities, including photo elicitation, to assess perceptions of food access. The central aims of the research were to evaluate physical and economic access and exposure to healthy and unhealthy foods in communities of differing socioeconomic status as well as participants' subjective perceptions of

such access and exposure. The findings suggest a need to reach beyond a narrow focus on food store types and the distance from residence to grocery stores when analyzing food access. Results show that excessive access and exposure to unhealthy foods and drinks, or "food swamps," may be a greater concern than food deserts for obesity prevention policy in Mexico.

**Bylander, Maryann.** 2015. "Credit as Coping: Rethinking Microcredit in the Cambodian Context." *Oxford Development Studies* 43(4): 533-553.

This article explores the uses and meanings of microcredit in one Cambodian community, drawing on qualitative research to argue that what it is claimed that microcredit provides is substantively different from what it means in practice for many rural Cambodian borrowers. In particular, my findings suggest three key disconnects between the rhetoric and reality of microlending. First, while microfinance institutions (MFIs) assert that loans are used for and repaid via microenterprise, my data suggest that loans are primarily used for a variety of non-productive purposes, and are most frequently repaid through wage labour both within and outside the country. Second, whereas MFIs assert that microcredit offers a substitute for high-interest informal loans, in practice microcredit is often used alongside informal credit and drives the need for higher-interest informal borrowing. Third, whereas loans are argued to offer proactive ways of livelihood improvement, in practice borrowers often struggle to repay loans, and debt can substantively heighten vulnerabilities. These findings challenge the primary goals and stated expectations of microcredit, and raise questions about the potential of microcredit as a development strategy in the Cambodian context.

**Dimitrova, Svetla.** 2015. "Film Review: *Posh Corps: The Feature Film*." *Teaching Sociology* 43(4): 324-326.

*Posh Corps*, a documentary on Peace Corps volunteers in South Africa, begins with the main characters explaining the goals of Peace Corps, a volunteer program operated by the U.S. government. We learn that Peace Corps "sends U.S. citizens to developing nations to provide needed skills and build relationships," what volunteers do during their two-year service, and why they contest the notion that South Africa is a "Posh Corps" country: a volunteer term for a more developed or an "easy" Peace Corps country....With international volunteering on the rise, especially among young people, many students will be genuinely interested in the film as they may be considering a postcollege volunteer opportunity for themselves. Accordingly, the film is well suited for courses with a service component and those that interrogate U.S. foreign aid policies.

**Dougherty, Michael L.** 2015. "By the Gun or by the Bribe: Firm Size, Environmental Governance and Corruption among Mining Companies in Guatemala." *Chr. Michelsen Institute, U4 Issue Paper 17*  
(<http://www.cmi.no/publications/publication/?5630=by-the-gun-or-by-the-bribe-firm-size>)

This U4 Issue discusses the corruption risks faced by mining companies in Guatemala, with a particular focus on the risks faced by small, "junior" mining companies primarily engaged in exploration. Several factors make such companies highly prone to engaging in corrupt behavior, especially when operating in weak institutional contexts: the highly competitive nature of the mining industry, the risky dynamics of the exploration stage, and the specific characteristics of junior companies – their short operational timelines, low reputational risks, highly mobile and flexible nature, and reliance on fickle venture capital. Additionally, public environmental governance, and in particularly the approval of the environmental impact assessment, represents a moment of acute vulnerability to corruption, particularly for junior companies. In order to mitigate corruption risks among junior mining companies, donor agencies should help to build community capacity to monitor mining operations, build central state government capacity for environmental governance, work with countries to improve the rigor for environmental impact assessment processes, increase the visibility and reputational risks for junior companies, and build cultures of compliance in junior companies' countries of origin as well as within companies.

**Hsu, Jennifer Y. J.** 2015. "China's Development: A New Development Paradigm?" *Third World Quarterly* 36(9): 1754-1769.

The emergence of China as a development actor across the global South has raised significant questions regarding the extent to which the country presents new development opportunities to its compatriots in the South. My aim is to reflect on and parse out the experiences and policies that have shaped China's development to assess how it can inform the field of development studies. I argue that we need to critically engage in China's development process, as

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China's own development has led to the emergence of many more problems than solutions, ranging from increasing inequality to exclusionary development practices pertaining to ethnic minorities.

**Hsu, Becky.** 2015. "The 'Impossible' Default: Qualitative Data on Borrower Responses to Two Types of Social-Collateral Microfinance Structures in Rural China." *Journal of Development Studies* 51(12), (available online at DOI:10.1080/00220388.2015.1093115).

Qualitative data reveal how the social context underlying the ties linking borrowers in microfinance programmes influences their decisions. Focusing directly on social context makes it possible to distinguish between two social-collateral structures and explain why one facilitated repayment while the other did not. Fieldwork in rural China shows that the basis of the social ties in the social-collateral structure is central to explaining whether and why individuals decided to sanction defaulters and repay loans. The article closes with reflections on generalisations of these findings to future microfinance research.

**Lapegna, Pablo.** 2015. "Genetically Modified Soybeans, Agrochemical Exposure, and Everyday Forms of Peasant Collaboration in Argentina." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, (available online at DOI:10.1080/03066150.2015.1041519).

Since the 2000s, both the production of genetically modified (GM) soybeans and the cases of agrochemical exposure have grown exponentially in Argentina. Drawing on ethnographic research, I analyze how peasant social movements understand the socio-environmental problems caused by the expansion of GM soybeans. I argue that at national, provincial, and local scales, the institutional recognition of peasant social movements and the performative actions of authorities discourage contentious collective action through subtle yet powerful mechanisms. The article contributes to social movement research and to the literature on peasant resistance by analyzing the cultural dynamics that constrain contention and shape processes of peasant collaboration, which are arguably as important as peasant resistance, although much less studied.

**Lapegna, Pablo.** 2015. "Popular Demobilization, Agribusiness Mobilization, and the Agrarian Boom in Post-Neoliberal Argentina." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 21(1): 69-87.

Based on ethnographic research, archival data, and a catalog of protest events, this article analyzes the relationship between popular social movements, business mobilization, and institutional politics in Argentina during the "post-neoliberal" phase, which arguably began circa 2003. How did waves of popular mobilization in the 1990s shape business mobilization in the 2000s? How did contentious politics influence institutional politics in the "post-neoliberal" period? What are the changes and continuities of the "agrarian boom" that cut across the neoliberal and "post-neoliberal" periods? While I zoom in on Argentina, the article goes beyond this case by contributing to three discussions. First, rather than limiting the analysis to the customary focus on the mobilization of subordinated actors, it examines the demobilization of popular social movements, the mobilization of business sectors, and the connections between the two. Second, it shows the ways in which the state can simultaneously challenge neoliberal principles while also favoring the global corporations that dominate the contemporary neoliberal food regime. Finally, the case of Argentina sheds light on the political economy of the "Left turn" in Latin America, particularly the negative socio-environmental impacts of commodity booms. The article concludes that researchers need to pay closer attention to the connections between contentious and institutional politics, and to the protean possibilities of neoliberalism to inspire collective actions.

**Paret, Marcel.** 2015. "Apartheid Policing: Examining the US Migrant Labor System Through a South African Lens." *Citizenship Studies* 19(3-4): 317-334.

This article draws a parallel between the Apartheid regime in South Africa and the post-IRCA immigration regime in the USA. I argue that both regimes were organised around Apartheid Policing, which may be defined as a legal process consisting of three mutually reinforcing mechanisms: differentiation of migrants into non-citizen insiders with legal residence rights and non-citizen outsiders without them; stabilisation of migrants as permanent or long-term residents, enabling the growth of the migrant workforce; and marginalisation of migrants as politically vulnerable outsiders, including exploitation at work. But the two regimes were supported by different political and ideological apparatuses. While placing a disproportionate burden on Latino migrants, the post-IRCA immigration regime differed from the Apartheid regime in that it was not organised around an explicit racial hierarchy, and offered non-citizens a

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greater array of rights. As a result, Apartheid Policing under the post-IRCA immigration regime is potentially more politically sustainable.

**Paret, Marcel.** 2015. "Precarious Labor Politics: Unions and the Struggles of the Insecure Working Class in the United States and South Africa." *Critical Sociology* 41(4-5): 757-784.

The growing precariousness of the working class and the declining significance of unions has given rise to precarious politics: non-union struggles by insecurely employed and low-income groups. Under what conditions do unions incorporate these struggles as part of a broader labor movement? This article examines how unions responded to two particularly visible examples of precarious politics in the late 1990s and early 2000s: the struggles of low-wage noncitizen workers and communities in California, USA; and the struggles of poor citizen communities with high unemployment in Gauteng, South Africa. Contrary to what the legacy of unionism in each context would predict, unions became fused with precarious politics in California but were separated from them in Gauteng. This surprising divergence stemmed from the reconfiguration of unions in each place, most notably due to steady union decline in California and democratization in Gauteng. Whereas unions in California understood noncitizen workers as central to their own revitalization, the close relationship between unions and the state in Gauteng created distance from community struggles. Both cases underscore the importance of workers' citizenship status and the role of the state for understanding how unions relate to precarious politics.

**Paret, Marcel.** 2015. "Violence and Democracy in South Africa's Community Protests." *Review of African Political Economy* 42(143): 107-123.

Community protests in South Africa are often described as violent. Drawing from newspaper articles, interviews with protesters and statements by public officials, this paper unpacks the meaning of 'violent protest'. It shows that violence is both ambiguous and deeply entangled with democracy. On the one hand, violent practices may become a tool of liberation, promoting democracy by empowering marginalised groups. On the other hand, democracy may become a tool of domination, undermining dissent by constituting as violent those persons and actions that deviate from formal institutional channels. The analysis urges scholars to adopt a critical and nuanced view of violence.

**Paret, Marcel.** 2015. "Labor and Community Struggles in Post-Apartheid South Africa." In *New South African Review 5: Beyond Marikana*, edited by G. M. Khadiagala, P. Naidoo, D. Pillay, and R. Southall. Johannesburg: Wits University Press.

**Radhakrishnan, Smitha and Cinzia Solari.** 2015. "Empowered Women, Failed Patriarchs: Neoliberalism and Global Gender Anxieties." *Sociology Compass* 9(9): 784-802.

Notions of "empowered women," promoted by NGOs, economists, and feminists beginning in the 1970s, do not necessitate a countervailing notion of "failed patriarchs." However, our review of the feminist literatures on globalization, development, and migration in the United States, the former Soviet Union, and South Asia suggests that discourses of empowered women and failed patriarchs are fused in the specter of the "reverse gender order." A presumption of this new order is that global capitalism has liberated women to such an extent that they have surpassed men who are now the truly "disadvantaged." Drawing on these literatures as evidence, we argue that the large-scale incorporation of poor and working-class women into global capitalism relies upon an ideology of the family that keeps women's labor "cheap" and draws support from the feminist idea that work is empowering for women. Diverse nationalisms uphold the ideology of the family as central to capitalist expansion, providing culturally resonant justifications for women's unpaid reproductive work, while men are breadwinners. Thus, poor and working-class men experience a painful dissonance between breadwinning expectations and economic opportunities. We show that these tensions between ideologies and material conditions make women's responsibility for reproductive work a structural feature of neoliberalism.

**Nickow, Andre.** 2015. "Growing in Value: NGOs, Social Movements, and the Cultivation of Developmental Value Chains in Uttarakhand, India." *Global Networks* 15(S1): S45-S63.

The social consequences of global value chains – including their effects on economic development – are shaped, in part, by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social movement organizations (SMOs). While scholars have extensively explored the causes and effects of downstream corporate social responsibility, we know little about the

influence of upstream NGOs and SMOs in shaping value chains. To address this lacuna, I draw on a case study of rural development organizations in the Indian state of Uttarakhand. I find that these groups build marginal producers' organizational and technical capacity, assist producers in meeting certification standards, and work to cultivate alternative value chain segments, both local and global. Results suggest that NGOs and SMOs help marginal producers to engage more profitably with corporate value chains, even as they simultaneously pursue strategies that are more contentious and that aim to create deeper structural change.

**Radhakrishnan, Smitha.** 2015. "‘Low Profile’ or Entrepreneurial? Gender, Class, and Cultural Adaptation in the Global Microfinance Industry." *World Development* 74: 264-274.

This study examines how discourses of entrepreneurial womanhood, filtered through a chain of hierarchically positioned actors in global microfinance, translate into interactions with borrowers. Drawing from ethnography, interviews, and document analysis on a set of entrepreneurial trainings delivered to nonentrepreneurial borrowers in urban India, this study argues that parallel, conflicting processes of cultural adaptation within the organization, and tensions between various actors, create an environment in which there is no incentive to cater to the interests of working class clients. Commercialized microfinance, thus, may not necessarily produce accountability to client interests.

**Samford, Steven.** 2015. "Innovation and Public Space: The Developmental Possibilities of Regulation in the Global South." *Regulation and Governance* 9(3): 294-308.

Important product and process innovations are often developed in "public spaces" that promote collaboration and provide shelter from market competition. Given that most collaborative spaces are costly to establish, the possible implications are bleak for economically strapped developing countries. This paper highlights a less conspicuous – if not unknown – source of collaborative space: the regulatory process. Regulators can induce innovation by promoting collaboration across organizational, sectoral, and disciplinary boundaries in the interest of regulatory compliance. This paper documents the innovative consequences of efforts to regulate the use of lead-based glazes in the Mexican ceramics industry and reconsiders several recent studies of upgrading in other countries that appear to have been driven, at least in part, by the regulatory process. Drawing on these cases, this paper makes four primary points: (i) that innovation in regulatory spaces is more common than previously acknowledged and is producing meaningful improvements in product quality and working conditions in developing economies; (ii) that promoting innovation in these regulatory spaces is an important developmental tool for countries that are "regulation-takers" and have many low-tech sectors; (iii) that this dynamic extends current conceptions of regulatory discretion, as well as development literature on state-society synergies; and (iv) that establishing collaborative public spaces as a common conceptual framework is a critical step toward understanding the consequences of social regulation on upgrading.

**Zinda, John Aloysius.** Forthcoming. "Tourism Dynamos: Selective Commodification and Developmental Conservation in China's Protected Areas." *Geoforum* (available online at DOI: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.08.004).

At scenic sites across China, rural officials compelled to maximize revenue use local state authority over protected areas to foster "tourism dynamos". Local states set up infrastructure and institutions around rural attractions that channel the circulation of tourists, churning out revenues that meet quotas and fund further expansion of attractions and towns. To make these dynamos turn, local authorities have displaced resident-led tourism operations they had previously helped set up. Residents are reincorporated in varying ways and often retain land use rights. Meanwhile, as revenues stream out of attractions, what little is invested in environmental protection goes to maintaining scenery. Local governments also accomplish spatial transformations, within each park intensifying surplus generation in areas zoned for tourism while reserving other areas from use, and beyond park boundaries linking attractions together on tourism circuits radiating from central towns. These state-driven transformations depend on how the reservation of land from commodity exchange within protected areas comes together with specific state capacities to enable tourism intensification. These processes, which I label "developmental conservation," call attention to selective commodifications and the mediating role of the state in protected area governance in China and beyond.

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## MEMBER NEWS

### 2015 Job Market Candidates

**Ali Kadivar**, University of North Carolina, [kadivar@unc.edu](mailto:kadivar@unc.edu)

*Research interests:* politics, social movements, democratization, Middle East

*Dissertation Title:* Mass Mobilization and Durability of New Democracies

*Abstract:* A generation ago, political scientist Samuel Huntington commented that “democratic regimes that last have seldom, if ever, been instituted by mass popular actors” (1984:212). This dissertation subjects this observation to empirical investigation using statistical and comparative-historical analyses of new democracies over the past half-century. Contrary to Huntington’s suggestion, I argue that new democracies growing out of mass mobilization are more likely to survive than new democracies that came about without mobilization. Survival analysis of 112 young democracies based on original data show that the longer the mobilization, the more likely the ensuing democracy is to survive. I use five case studies, then, varied on length of mobilization and democratic outcome to investigate the mechanisms. In particular, sustained unarmed uprisings have generated the longest-lasting new democracies – largely because they are forced to develop an organizational structure that provides a leadership cadre for the new regime, forges links between the government and society, and strengthens checks on the power post-transition government.

*Website:* <http://kadivar.web.unc.edu/>

**John Zinda**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Institute for Environment and Society, Brown University, [john\\_zinda@brown.edu](mailto:john_zinda@brown.edu)

*Research interests:* environmental sociology, globalization and development, rural livelihoods, food systems, land use and land cover change, mixed methods, spatial analysis, China

*Dissertation Title:* Organizing Conservation and Development in China: Politics, Institutions, Biodiversity, and Livelihoods

*Current Research Project:* Land Management Programs, Communities, Livelihoods, and Landscapes in Southwest China Worldwide, governments use incentive-based programs to encourage rural residents to conserve forests and intensify agriculture. Their impacts depend upon how communities implement programs and how households respond. I am collaborating with a China-based landscape ecologist to address how community political institutions mediate the impacts of land management programs on livelihoods and landscapes. Focusing on government programs concerning afforestation of retired farmland, forest management, and agricultural modernization, we are analyzing in-depth case studies, household surveys, and land cover change data in twelve communities. We examine how community institutions shape policy outcomes and how land use decisions impact land cover, household well-being, and community socioeconomic patterns, structuring social and ecological patterns across rural landscapes.

*Website:* <http://johnzinda.wordpress.com/>

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### Completed Dissertations

**Hasan Mahmud** completed his Ph.D. dissertation, entitled “Beyond Altruism or Self-interest: Social Determinants of Remitting among Bangladeshi Migrants in Tokyo and Los Angeles,” at the University of California, Los Angeles (committee co-chairs: Professor Min Zhou and Professor Ruben Hernandez-Leon of the Sociology Department).

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### Promotions, Awards, and Moves

**Paul Almeida**, University of California-Merced, received the 2015 Distinguished Scholarship Award from the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) for his book, *Mobilizing Democracy: Globalization and Citizen Protest* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014).

**Paul Almeida**, University of California-Merced, received a Fulbright Scholar Fellowship from 2015 to 2017 in Honduras for his project entitled “Nongovernmental Organizations and Community Well-Being.”

**David Brown**, Cornell University, received the “Distinguished Rural Sociologist” award from the Rural Sociological Society at its 2015 annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Holly Reed** has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY).

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 OPPORTUNITIES
 

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**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Annual ASA Section on the Sociology of Development Conference  
 An International, Interdisciplinary Conference

**Development in Question:**

*Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**October 6 – 8, 2016, Cornell University, Ithaca NY**

This is a time of critical re-thinking about the nature and meaning of Development. Contemporary challenges such as climate change, global food crises, growing populations, widespread environmental degradation, geo-political instability and concerns over energy management have heightened uncertainty around – and contestation over – the future. In October 2015, the United Nations unveiled the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of ambitious, much-discussed goals that follow on the heels of the prior Millennium Development Goals (2005–2015). According to the website, the SDGs “converge with the post 2015 development agenda.” This raises the question: what is the post-2015 development agenda, who is included and how are the boundaries constructed?

Notwithstanding the billions of dollars, thousands of consultants and considerable institutional infrastructure, development work raises as many questions as it answers. Thinking of development as a policy, a set of objectives, groups of people, or a national and international set of goals, raises old and new questions of inequality, social change, colonialism, war, rights, environmental degradation, distribution, and more. To address the questions of what is development, what or who is to be developed and why, the ASA Section on the Sociology of Development, in collaboration with the Department of Development Sociology at Cornell, is sponsoring a conference on “Development in Question.” The conference will be held in October on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, NY. The conference organizers invite papers that think critically and creatively about contradictions, challenges and opportunities within the concept and practice of development. Contributions that engage in original ways both empirically and theoretically with key ideas, practices and categories of Development at different or multiple scales will be privileged.

Throughout the conference, there will be keynote plenary talks or panels on the following topics:

- **The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals:** Sustaining what, whom and why?
- **Doing Development:** The international community, national state and emerging actors
- **The Tools of Development:** Definitions, measurement and (e)valuation
- **Development in Movement:** From migration to refugees, the demographics of development
- **Marketing Development:** Commodity chains, global trade and the commodification of everything

In addition to the plenary sessions, the conference will consist of parallel paper sessions on a wide range of topics. We welcome abstracts from all scholars, including academics, activists, organizers and policy-makers. The following themes will guide the selection of abstracts although we are open to all work on Development, particularly from a sociological perspective:

- |  |  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development, Conflict and War</b></li> <li>• <b>Trade Flows and Illicit Economies</b></li> <li>• <b>Doing Development Differently: Activists, Policy and Academics</b></li> <li>• <b>Pedagogies of Development</b></li> <li>• <b>South-South Development: Genealogies and Implications</b></li> <li>• <b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b></li> <li>• <b>Privatization</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social movements and mobilization</b></li> <li>• <b>Gender, race and ethnicity in the new development era</b></li> <li>• <b>Climate Change and the Nature of Development</b></li> <li>• <b>Infrastructure and Extractive Development</b></li> <li>• <b>Knowledge, Expertise and Power</b></li> <li>• <b>Precarity and the Politics of Poverty</b></li> </ul> |
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- **Migration, Mobility and Environmental Change**
- **Urban infrastructure and lives**

**Instructions for submission of abstracts or panel proposals\*:**

The deadline for submitting abstracts or panel proposals is **February 08, 2016**

Please send proposals (no more than one page for a single abstract, no more than two pages for a panel proposal as a word or pdf document to [questioningdevelopment2016@gmail.com](mailto:questioningdevelopment2016@gmail.com).

Include full contact details (email, affiliation and address for contact)

Notifications and initial programs will be sent out mid-March 2016

*\* Panel proposals should include between 3 to 5 presenters; if 3 presenters are suggested, conference organizers may add up to 2 additional members.*

*Note:* There is no fee for registration. Hospitality grants will be provided to some participants, but they are limited. Please specify whether you would like to be considered for partial funding. During the conference, all meals and materials will be provided for participants.

**For more information and clarification, please send an email to the address above.**

*Steering committee members:*

Wendy Wolford and Alice Beban, Cornell University, USA, Development Sociology  
 Elizabeth Harrison, University of Sussex, UK, School of Global Studies  
 Michael Watts, University of California, Berkeley, USA, Program in Development Studies  
 Sérgio Sauer, University of Brasília, Brazil, Program on Environment and Rural Development  
 Ye Jingzhong, China Agricultural University, China, Humanities and Development Studies  
 Carol Upadhy, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India  
 Max Ajl, Middle East Political Economy Project, Arab Studies Institute  
 Yvonne Underhill-Sem, University of Auckland, New Zealand, Development Studies  
 Shalmali Guttal, Focus on the Global South, Bangkok, Thailand  
 Emmanuel Sulle, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, PLAAS  
 Jennifer Franco, Transnational Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
 Rae Lesser Blumberg, President, ASA Section on the Sociology of Development, USA (rotating)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Developing the Field of Gender and Migration: Working Towards Innovative Methodologies and Analytical Techniques

**February 26-27, 2016, University of California, Irvine**

Over the past two decades, scholars from various disciplines built up a body of scholarship about gender and migration. Shifting focus away from a universalizing male experience, this field established that gender dynamically structures migration and immigrant incorporation processes. This conference aims to bring together a group of interdisciplinary scholars, ranging from graduate students to senior scholars, who are involved in cutting-edge research in the field of gender and migration. By engaging with one another's work, we plan to identify innovative theoretical, methodological, and analytical strategies that will advance scholarship in the field. For a list of suggested topics, see the full CFP. If you wish to present a paper, please submit no more than two single-spaced pages in which you identify your research question, theoretical framework, data and methodology, findings, and contributions to the study of gender and migration. Please include references (in addition to the two-page limit) and if necessary, up to two pages of tables and/or figures. Submissions are due by **December 14, 2015 at 9am PST / 12pm EST**. Applicants should upload their submissions to <https://form.jotform.com/52865763590164>. Email inquiries should be directed to [genderandmigration2016@gmail.com](mailto:genderandmigration2016@gmail.com).

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Mini-Conference of the Comparative Historical Sociology Section: “Can Comparative Historical Sociology Change The World?”

**August 19, 2016, University of Washington, Seattle, WA**

The Comparative Historical Sociology section of the American Sociological Association and the Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) program at Northwestern University are pleased to announce a mini-conference entitled “**Can Comparative Historical Sociology Save the World?**” The conference will take place August 19, 2016, at the University of Washington, in Seattle.

We live in a world where the most important policy concerns, from terrorism and climate change to the fight against poverty and infectious disease, transcend national borders. This conference explores how scholars might use the tools of comparative and historical sociology to engage issues of public concern. An opening plenary session moderated by Professor Monica Prasad will engage both advanced and early-stage scholars in conversation on this issue. Other sessions will be organized around the papers accepted through this call. We encourage paper submissions from scholars at all career stages, from sociology and other disciplines. We are especially interested in submissions that employ comparative and historical methods to examine important issues of our day, such as (but not limited to) global market regulation, questions of immigration and citizenship, poverty, environmental insecurity, and protracted race, gender and class inequality. We also invite submissions reflecting on the tradition of policy-relevant research in comparative historical sociology, as well as what the role of comparative and historical methods could or should be in public debate. Please submit abstracts of no more than 500 words through the electronic abstract submission form: <http://form.jotform.us/form/52724660569160>. The deadline for paper submission is **January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

There is a participation fee of \$25 for faculty and \$15 for students. Travel and lodging funding ding will be awarded on a lottery basis to interested graduate students and term faculty participants. Announcements about travel awards will be made after papers are accepted. For questions, please contact the planning committee at [chsminicon@gmail.com](mailto:chsminicon@gmail.com).

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Perspectives on Global Development and Technology

*Perspectives on Global Development and Technology* (PGDT) is now accepting manuscripts and book reviews for publication in 2016. *PGDT* is a peer-reviewed journal for the discussion of current social sciences research on diverse socio-economic development issues. *PGDT* publishes bi-monthly.

For more information, visit <http://www.brill.com/perspectives-global-development-and-technology>, or email Dwight Haase at [dwight.haase@utoledo.edu](mailto:dwight.haase@utoledo.edu).

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

### IBEI Assistant Professor 2016

The Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) invites applications for two full-time tenure-track positions in Political Science/International Relations, with a special interest in the areas of international security, international development and global governance, at the Assistant Professor level. These positions are part of IBEI's ambition to raise its international research profile. Starting date is September 15, 2016. A five-year contract will be offered. A performance review for tenure will normally be undertaken at the end of the fourth year, or potentially earlier for candidates who already have a strong publication record.

Candidates must have obtained a Ph.D. by the time they will join IBEI and must show a promising record of publications in peer-reviewed journals and/or major scholarly presses. The Assistant Professor is expected to teach in IBEI's Master's degree programs (teaching in English) and to participate in IBEI activities and research programs. Salary conditions are internationally competitive and will include support for research expenses. Excellent personal skills and an ability to contribute to collaborative research projects are also essential for this position.

Applications must be submitted **by January 11, 2016**. Applicants should send a letter of interest; complete curriculum vitae; a report of teaching and research activities that credits teaching experience and research potential; a sample of previous research; an outline of a proposed research project; and three letters of recommendation. Please send these documents by e-mail to: Carlos Sanchez, [csanchez@ibei.org](mailto:csanchez@ibei.org).

IBEI is a graduate teaching and research institution created by the five major universities in Barcelona (the University of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Pompeu Fabra University, the Open University of Catalonia, and the Technical University of Catalonia). Research in all fields of international political economy, international relations, international security, foreign policy and comparative politics is supported. IBEI is an equal opportunities employer. Further information about IBEI and its Master's programs can be obtained at the following web site: <http://www.ibei.org>.



## SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

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 EDITORS' CHOICE
 

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## The New Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by Svetla Dimitrova (Michigan State University)

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (also referred to as the post-2015 Development Agenda) was unveiled on the last day of the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York on September 25, 2015. It represents a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity around 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals and 169 associated targets. While, the agenda recognizes "...that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development" the goals are designed to cover all three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social, and the environmental.

Here they are:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

\* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

The new SDGs will replace the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) from 2000 that are set to expire at the end of 2015. Compared to the MDGs, the SDGs represent a much more comprehensive agenda for global development within a similar 15-year timeframe. The number of goals and specific targets has increased significantly from 8 to 17 Goals and from 18 to 169 Specific Targets along with an expansion of the scope of the goals. For example, the ambition of the MDGs was to reduce extreme poverty in half, whereas the SDG are set out to end extreme poverty and hunger. In addition, new goals have been added in the areas of reduction of inequalities and the protection of the environment. Another important difference is that unlike the MDGs, which targeted the world's poorest countries, the SDGs are set as universal goals that involve all countries, developed and developing countries alike.

While the SDGs are not legally binding, it is expected that they will shape the national policies of all UN member countries. A number of government and non-government organizations have already made commitments towards the implementation of the goals.

At the global level, the SDGs will be supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), whereas the main follow-up and review process will be decided next year at the meeting of the [High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development](#) (HLPF) in July of 2016. The HLPF will remain the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the SDGs until 2030. In addition, The UN has taken steps to encourage the implementation of the goals through multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives (government – private sector – civil society partnerships) and voluntary commitments that can be registered at the [UN Partnerships for SDGs Platform](#). The platform is expected to be fully functional in January 2016.

The debates about the merits of the SDGs in the media have already begun and they are bound to generate much academic interest. Our own 2016 Annual Development Sociology Conference at Cornell University will also focus on the post-2015 development agenda and the new SDGs.

For more information and resources about the SDGs check the following websites:

- **The UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform** includes information about the SDGs, and the post-2015 process and stakeholders. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>
- **Sustainable Development 2015** focuses on the SDG decision-making process. <http://www.sustainabledevelopment2015.org/>
- **The Global Goals for Sustainable Development** features a Resource Centre section with toolkits for individuals, organizations, businesses, mobile operators, radio broadcasters, educators, and faith leaders “to help them make the Global Goals famous.” <http://www.globalgoals.org/>.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Sociology of Development Section of ASA promotes work in sociology on the causes and effects of development. We support work in all geographical regions including the United States, other advanced industrial nations and the Global South. We are open to work of all theoretical orientations and all methodological orientations. Both theoretical and applied work is welcome.

### SECTION COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

*ASA Sociology of Development Page:*

<http://www.asanet.org/sections/development.cfm>

*Sociology of Development Website:*

<http://sociologyofdevelopment.com/>

*Sociology of Development Facebook Page:*

<https://www.facebook.com/ASA-Sociology-of-Development-Section-160936710615717/>

*Sociology of Development Listserv: SOCDEV*

[DEVELOPMENT-ANNOUNCE@LISTSERV.ASANET.ORG](mailto:DEVELOPMENT-ANNOUNCE@LISTSERV.ASANET.ORG)

*Sociology of Development Newsletter:*

Please send all your ideas, feedback, and submissions to [socdevsectors@gmail.com](mailto:socdevsectors@gmail.com).