

SECTORS

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

SECTION OFFICERS, 2016-2017

Chair

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Harvard University

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University of Colorado

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Cornell University

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Kansas State University

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Rina Agarwala (2018),
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Erin Metz McDonnell (2018),
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Phyllis Baker (2019),
University of Illinois, Urbana-
Champaign

Susan H. Lee (2019),
Boston University

Student Representative & Facebook Master:

Jeffrey Swindle,
University of Michigan

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Jennifer Keahey,
Arizona State University

Newsletter Editors:

Svetla Dimitrova &
Kelly Birch Maginot,
Michigan State University

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Jocelyn Viterna

Dear Members-

Six years ago this fall, I had the privilege of serving on the founding council of the brand new Sociology of Development section. Since then, our section has grown to nearly 500 members representing a diversity of intellectual interests. We have also sustained an annual conference; published a *Sociology of Development* handbook; created intellectual subsections in feminist development, global health, and violence; initiated a series of policy briefs to improve engagement with development practitioners; and petitioned the University of California press to launch a journal on the *Sociology of Development*. These works have been coordinated by a team of extraordinary volunteers, an informative website, and our excellent bi-annual newsletter, *Sectors*.

As chair, I have four agenda items for the 2016-2017 academic year.

First, I want to maintain and fortify the high quality initiatives already in motion.

Second, I hope to strengthen our section's commitment to junior scholars. To that end, I've asked our graduate student council representative, Jeff Swindle, to oversee the creation of a booklet that will help our graduate students find development-related funding sources and post-doctoral positions. We are also hoping to provide more mentoring events at the annual meetings.



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Third, and relatedly, I want to improve the financial health of our section. As a new section, we have proven that extraordinary things can happen on a shoestring budget. However, with a bit more money, we could further develop section programming that would improve our mentorship, increase our membership, and deepen our influence in the discipline. I'm going to start this drive for financial stability by asking the section to vote in favor of a \$1 per person increase in membership dues. I also ask that any member with ideas for fundraising contact me directly at jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu.

Fourth, I want 2017 to be the year in which our section strategizes ways to amplify the visibility and impact of our members' research. Whether you study demographics, the environment, politics, economics, or the deep fissures of inequality that demarcate present-day societies, your research is now more important than ever. Your research provides a critical challenge to the anti-science, anti-democratic, anti-justice political agenda that has been gaining force in the US and around the world. To date, our section has worked to provide new outlets for members' research, both in our policy brief series (<https://sociologyofdevelopment.com/policybriefs/>), and in the new *Sociology of Development* journal (<http://socdev.ucpress.edu>). Now, I'd like to see us strategize how to expand the readership of that research in ways that will inform policy and politics.

In sum, the purpose of the Sociology of Development section is to support you, our members, as you generate evidence-based knowledge that helps create positive social change. If you have any ideas about how we can do our job better, please don't hesitate to contact me at jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu.

Wishing you all great insight and productivity in 2017!

Jocelyn Viterna,
Professor
Department of Sociology
Harvard University

<http://scholar.harvard.edu/viterna/home>

New Council Members



Chair-elect
Jennifer Bair
University of Colorado



Council Member
Phyllis Baker,
University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign



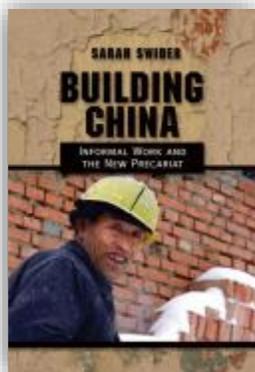
Council Member
Susan H. Lee
Boston University



**Student
Representative &
Facebook Master**
Jeffrey Swindle,
University of Michigan

2016 SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT SECTION PRIZE WINNERS

2016 Sociology of Development Book Award



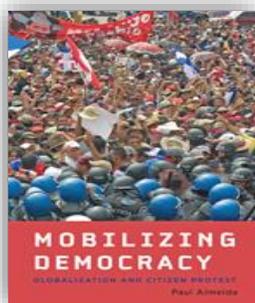
Swider, Sarah. 2015. *Building China: Informal Work and the New Precariat*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

(http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100031210&fa=author&person_id=5256).

The award committee considers *Building China* to be a groundbreaking study on a population that is often invisible in scholarly and policy work on development—i.e. informal, migrant construction workers. Although the construction industry has been widely acknowledged as instrumental in China’s recent economic boom, we know oddly little about the lives and livelihoods of construction workers. Drawing from a deep and extensive ethnography where the author lived and worked in several construction sites across China, as well as 83 interviews with migrants, managers, and labor contractors, Swider sheds light on the structures, processes, and various actors building modern-day China. Swider illustrates how

the Chinese state brokers migrant labor to build China’s shiny new cities, as well as how contemporary workers are redefining and reshaping labor movements to resist their exclusion from the very cities they built. Perhaps most noteworthy is the new theoretical framework this book offers. Rather than (re)exposing what has now become a common point (i.e. that formal work is declining and informal or precarious work is increasing), Swider deepens our conceptualization of informal or precarious work through her original and useful concept of the “employment configuration”. The concept of employment configurations differentiates types of informal work based on (1) pathways into employment and (2) mechanisms regulating the employment relationship. It rejects the idea that informal work is “unregulated” and categorizes work based on non-state mechanisms of regulation. In doing so, it pushes us past increasingly outdated and dichotomous frameworks (i.e. formal vs. informal work) to include the wide range of diverse employment relationships that characterize the world’s economies today. For development scholars of China and beyond, this book is a must read.

Honorable Mention for the 2016 Sociology of Development Book Award



Almeida, Paul. 2014. *Mobilizing Democracy: Globalization and Citizen Protest*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (<https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/content/mobilizing-democracy>)

The award committee enthusiastically endorses *Mobilizing Democracy* for its methodological sophistication and for its contributions to the intersection of social mobilization and national development. The book examines six countries in Central America to explain why communities respond differently to the effects of globalization and neo-liberal capitalist liberalization policies. Drawing from the extensive comparative case studies and multiple field interviews, the author develops an analytical framework consisting of how democratic transitions, perceptions of economic risks, and state-society linkages in each nation influence

the social composition and strategies of oppositional coalitions. Rich in empirical data and a strong conceptual framework, the book sheds new light on the nature of agency in development processes and makes a significant contribution to how communities respond to global forces.

Committee: Rina Agarwala (Chair), Yvonne A. Braun, Samuel Cohn, Xiaoshuo Hou, Tammy L. Lewis, Yan Long, Enrique S. Pumar, and Gowri Vijayakumar.

2016 Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award

Singh, Prerna. 2015. "Subnationalism and Social Development: A Comparative Analysis of Indian States." *World Politics* 67(3)/July: 506-562.

Using statistical analyses and historical case comparisons, this article identifies solidarity that emerges from a shared collective identity, or subnationalism, as an important contributor to social policy and welfare outcomes in various states in India. Singh argues that an overarching subnational identity facilitates a sense of shared interests and mutual commitments among individuals from divergent subgroups as it did in the state of Kerala. These individuals, therefore, are more likely to support policies that enhance collective welfare. By contrast, in states where there is a lack of an overarching subnational identity, such as in Uttar Pradesh, the sense of mutual commitment is limited to coethnics, and not to all members of the subnational community. In such states, the political elite are more likely to introduce policies that target their particular ethnic group and not everyone in the state.

Singh's argument moves away from the dominant view in welfare scholarship of the negative impact of collective identity. By highlighting how class mobilization succeeds when embedded in subnationalism, as it did in Kerala, and fails when there is no overarching subnationalism as in Uttar Pradesh, Singh also provides nuance to the argument on class mobilization and collective welfare. Singh's argument has important policy implications as she demonstrates how engaging subnational collective identities – through a state language, celebration of festivals and state heroes – can bring development policy in conversation with a larger arts and cultural context and can further social policy and development. Well written with empirical, conceptual, and theoretical contributions, it was an unanimous first choice of all members of the committee.

Committee: Manisha Desai (Chair), Shawn Dorius, Cristina Lucia, and Diana Mincyte.

2016 Sociology of Development Graduate Student Paper Award

We received a total of thirteen papers, and we were blown away by the quality and creativity of the intellectual work of the students in this section. The future of our section is clearly in very good hands. It was very difficult work for our committee to narrow down the field, but in the end we managed to select one award winner and one honorable mention.

Our Student Award Prize goes to **Roshan Kumar Pandian** for his paper "Does Manufacturing Matter for Economic Growth in the Era of Globalization?"

Pandian's paper adjudicates between two competing perspectives concerning the importance of manufacturing employment for economic growth in the last two decades. Some scholars have argued that global restructuring and the new "international division of labor" presents novel opportunities for economic growth in the Global South, while others have argued that the importance of economic growth for developing countries has declined during this period as competitive pressures increase and barriers decline, motivating a "race to the bottom." But previous research has not looked at the importance of manufacturing over time, nor has it compared developed and developing countries in the same analysis. In so doing, Pandian finds that manufacturing exerts a strong, positive effect on growth in all countries, but how this effect plays out over time is variable. In developed countries, the effects of manufacturing on economic growth are consistently strong, but in developing countries, the importance of manufacturing does indeed decline after 1990. In this way, Pandian carefully and intelligently mediates between two long-competing hypotheses in Economic Development, and finds that the answer actually is more complicated than what either side had actually postulated. This beautifully written and thoughtfully analyzed paper is expected to be a central read for all economic development scholars in the future.

Congratulations to Roshan Pandian for winning this year's Best Student Article award for the Sociology of Development Section.

Honorable Mention for the 2016 Sociology of Development Graduate Student Paper Award

Mohammad Ali Kadivar for his paper “Mass Mobilization and the Durability of New Democracies.”

In his paper, Kadivar empirically examines 112 new democracies over the past half-century and finds that, contrary to Huntington’s long-standing claims, new democracies that grow out of mass mobilizations are MORE LIKELY to survive than new democracies that did not. Of these mass mobilizations, UNARMED uprisings are more likely to endure than any other kind of democratic transition. He then deepens his empirical analysis with five case studies that investigate the mechanisms accounting for this relationship, and he concludes that mass mobilizations lead to stable new democracies because they require the emerging opposition to create organizational structures for leadership that translate easily into formal politics, and they forge links between this transitioning leadership and civil society, thus providing checks on the power of the post-transition government. Beautifully written, elegantly analyzed, and with transformative findings, this paper will certainly be published in a top peer review article in the very near future.

Congratulations to Ali Kadivar!

Committee: Jocelyn Viterna (Chair), Kelly Austin, Phyllis Baker, Matthew Mabutga, and Liam Swiss.

THE 2016 SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Reasons to be Cheerful, by Jonathan Glennie (Ipsos MORI)

Reflections at the 5th Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Development: Development in Question, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA, October 7, 2016

It is an honour to come to such a prestigious university and to address such a group of scholars. The sessions I have attended have been impressive and I hope my reflections this evening will build on themes that are emerging here this week.

I have been struck by how much pessimism there has been in some of the talks I have gone to. So I have called this talk “reasons to be cheerful”. Let’s see how well I do at geeing you all up!

I can see the reasons not to be. Inequality getting worse, power and wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, violent conflict over resources, particularly land, displacing millions, which will only get worse as people the world over seek to have the same standard of living as those they see on their TV screens, the rich in their own countries, or the West.

And talking of displacement, historic levels of migration leading to unimaginable human tragedies – can anyone be unmoved by the pictures of toddlers drowning in the Mediterranean? And yet the international community appears powerless to act.

The extractivist model, the power dynamics that lead to violent displacement, the failure to understand things from a different perspective – 500 years, and still going

strong. The everyday reality of the people on “the underside of history”, as the liberation theologian Gustavo Gutierrez called it.

When one looks at the tragedies that surround us, how can we talk really about reasons to be cheerful?

I was trying to work out why I tend to go to bed with a smile on my face. Do I just have a happy outlook? Perhaps I’m a little simple. Naïve. And then I realised, I’ve just already factored the bad stuff into my model. I’ve priced it in.

Let me explain. I studied theology, and I read the prophets of the Jewish bible. Hosea, Amos, Isaiah etc. I promise you, Shalmali Guttal could have given the talk she gave yesterday 3000 years ago, with a few edits.

My prior in all this is that wealthy and powerful people fight to defend their advantage, whether they realise they are or not. Now that I have got kids I understand why people make decisions to benefit their own families even if it means that others don’t benefit or actually suffer. It’s a powerful driver. And it is not new.

This idea that we live in a world that is developing in a linear way from A to B is deeply flawed, as we have heard from some of the speakers. It’s true, perhaps, in the physical sciences – knowledge is genuinely growing. But

not in politics, and not in human nature. Interests and incentives still dominate reason and evidence, and perhaps always will.

And if that's how you think, then however depressing the latest episode in human unfairness and savagery, it is not surprising. It's factored into the model.

So actually I realised that I wasn't more optimistic than everyone else, I was more pessimistic!

There is an idea in the NGO world, which I worked in for many years, that "Our job is to do ourselves out of a job". I bought that idea for a bit. But it's rubbish. It implies a kind of millennial sense of destiny that "this generation is the first that can end poverty".

Actually, every generation faces new challenges. The arc of history is long, as Martin Luther King, Jr., said. Everyone working in this field should be a historian as well as a sociologist. But as he also said, the arc of history bends towards justice. And I think there is evidence of that too. And that makes me cheerful.

The concept of development is finally, albeit gradually, changing, thanks to the work of Arturo Escobar and countless others including people seated here. I don't have many claims to fame but I think I was the first person to suggest in print, [back in 2010](#), that the Goals to replace the MDGs should be universal in nature, signalling an end to the false implication that "developed countries" no longer have anything to improve on. This is a profound paradigm shift and one to be celebrated.

And there are other areas of theory and rhetoric in which progress has been made since I started in this work twenty odd years ago. Back then you could hardly talk about inequality without being looked at like a kind of communist. Now the idea that inequality is a growing problem is fairly widely accepted, by the lords of development in the IMF, World Bank, OECD etc.

And the concept of sustainability, obviously, is now central. First introduced to the world by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 and acclaimed at the Rio summit in 1992, sustainable development gives social and environmental concerns parity with economic objectives. It has been quietly transforming development and economic theory for a couple of decades and will now be formally installed as the paramount development concept.

Three words: universality, equality, sustainability – like a French revolution but without the guillotine, all now unshakeably central to the post-2015 agreement. And all victories for the kind of analysis that I have heard so much at this conference.

And I haven't even mentioned perhaps the most important intellectual contribution of all – feminism. The central concepts of feminism, particularly that gender is a social construct rather than a biological fact, have transformed development discourse and practice over the last couple of decades.

On a range of particular issues too there has been progress. The whole edifice of neoliberalism, while still dominant in reality, is challenged academically. Joseph Stiglitz was one of earliest and most eloquent of the new breed of humble experts, proclaiming in [2004](#), "If there is consensus today about what strategies are likely to help the development of the poorest countries, it is this: there is no consensus except that the Washington consensus did not provide the answer."

Back in 2004 I was at a meeting of donors and aid recipients in Mozambique that year to discuss debt relief, and the discussion turned to the volatility of the financial markets. I suggested that countries should use capital controls where necessary to manage capital inflows effectively for development. Silence. And then an audible snigger at the other end of the table. It was as if I had suggested that the sun goes around the Earth. Today the IMF backs capital controls in some contexts.

The historic wall of arrogance that has characterised the development industry, just as it characterised colonialism and empire, is beginning to crack.

Why? Because of the questions that people like you are asking.

Or take the issue of taxation. I remember having meetings with people over a decade ago to see whether we could get a campaign going on fair taxes, both globally and nationally. The general view was – you mention the word "tax", and you've already lost the debate. Today, driven by a new momentum since the financial crash in the West, there is a major tax campaign underway.

And to people who say they are just words on a page I say, of course they are. But so was the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (1948) none of whose 30 articles carry an action plan or indicators to monitor progress. But it sets out a vision, justifying and supporting progressive attitudes everywhere. It has since been [translated into more than 300 languages](#). Insofar as documents signed many miles away can be useful to ordinary people struggling to fulfil their rights and potential, it does its job.

It certainly hasn't all be positive in the last few years. The indigenous discourse seems to remain on the periphery despite the crucial role it plays in any discussion about development. Indigenous communities lack power, and

that is precisely why they are marginalised, both physically and academically. The last thing governments want is their hands tied by an international agreement that commits them to respecting indigenous rights, which could be detrimental to their short-term economic plans.

Feminism has made it to the mainstream; indigenous analysis has not. And, despite a whole lot of progress, the fundamentals of neoliberalism, and the idea of development as consumer driven capitalism have perhaps never been stronger. It has co-opted everything, and is now the un-thought norm for young people.

In my view, the key concept for development work in the 21st century is this: dignity. Forget about development. We can argue forever about what that means (and we have done here at this conference). But everyone knows what dignity is.

Dignity is a transformational concept because it knows no social, economic, gender or ethnic barriers. Some of the poorest people are the most dignified. And some of the richest lack dignity. While charity is bestowed by the haves to the have-nots, dignity does not work like that at all. If I fail to treat someone with dignity, it is me, not them, who is undignified.

The dignity lens introduces an irony whereby the “less developed” can actually be more dignified. In this way, development becomes a truly global endeavour, not by the “developed” for the “developing”, but by all, for all, to achieve the dignity of all.

Extreme poverty is undignified – sometimes communities or individuals do find themselves helpless and in need of crisis or ongoing assistance. But that isn’t a sufficient understanding of the experiences of most poor people. As former president of Haiti Jean-Bertrand Aristide has pleaded, rebuilding his country means “[moving from misery to poverty with dignity](#)”.

[Amartya Sen](#) (and others) transformed the development lexicon by defining development as freedom rather than just economic or even social progress, and the concept of dignity takes us a step further along that road.

Conceptualising development as dignity certainly does not provide a systematic response to all its problems – in fact it implies as many questions as answers. But it adds a further rich perspective.

The saddest thing in the world is not poverty per se; it is the loss of human dignity. As we redefine development in this new era, let me throw this into the ring. Development is dignity or it is nothing. Development without dignity is not worth having.

Jonathan Glennie is Director of Sustainable Development at Ipsos MORI with over 15 years working in international development with Save the Children, Overseas Development Institute, and the Christian Aid among others. He is also a columnist at The Guardian’s Global Development website.

2017 Sociology of Development Annual Conference Save-The-Date Note

Disparities in Development: Global, Regional, and Local
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI,
October 5-7, 2017

The process of development generates a broad range of disparities across populations, cities, economies, and geographies, at the global, regional, and local levels. A central theme of this conference will be to identify and explore these disparities, with an emphasis on labor, health, race and gender, urban life, and migration. Explorations of other areas of disparity (i.e. environmental, educational, etc.) along with other topics of development will be welcome as well.

This will be the first annual Sociology of Development Conference held in the Midwest. The city of Detroit, and surrounding cities like Flint, are microcosms of many development issues generally considered within a Global North - Global South schema, affording development scholars a valuable new venue and perspective for the exploration of these disparities.

The Call for Papers and conference details will be posted in early January. We hope to see you there! Please contact Jeff Kentor with any questions (Jeffrey.kentor@wayne.edu).

SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

2016 Secretary-Treasurer Report, by Matthew Sanderson (Kansas State University)

The Sociology of Development section is a growing, diverse, inclusive, and engaged group. We have been among the fastest-growing sections in the ASA for several years.

At the time of the annual meeting in Seattle, we had 472 members. Our short-term membership goal is to maintain membership above 500 members. Once we can maintain a 'base' membership above 500 members, we aim to push toward the 600-member threshold, which would provide an additional session at the annual meeting and place us in the 'upper-middle' range of all the ASA sections, a noteworthy achievement in such a short period of time.

How can we do this? Our section focuses above all else on maximizing the value of membership for our members.

If a definition of efficiency is getting the most output from the least input—the most “bang for the buck”—our section is financially efficient! The section usually operates on an annual revenue stream of approximately \$1,800, which consists entirely of funds that ASA returns to us from your membership dues. Thanks mainly to a very committed membership and Council, we have accomplished some remarkable achievements on a very limited budget. To date, we have: established a journal, *Sociology of Development*, published by the University of California Press, that is quickly becoming the go-to place for the strongest sociological work on development; produced the *Sociology of Development Handbook* (also

published by the University of California Press), which includes 28 chapters on an extensive set of topics and perspectives; and started a new series of 'policy briefs' aiming to translate and more closely integrate sociological research with policy, *Sociological Insights for Development Policy*. Each year, we: put out a semi-annual newsletter full of dynamic activities, announcements, and happenings in the sociology of development; organize an annual section meeting that occurs independently of the annual ASA meeting; and offer a series of enlightening panels at the annual ASA meeting along with a rousing reception. All of this has happened on a \$1,800 budget!

We ended the 3rd quarter (September 30), with \$980 in the bank. It has never been our goal to accumulate funds in the section bank account; we have tried to do the most we can with our resources. However, we are actively exploring new and alternative revenue sources so that we can provide our members with even more value. If you are aware of potential sources, no matter how small or trivial you think they might be, please contact me: mattr@ksu.edu.

I became involved in the section near its founding because I believed in the promise of sociological work for addressing development-related challenges. I have stayed involved because of the dynamic group of people in this section – people committed to taking sociology into the world. Please, encourage your colleagues and students consider how their work might connect to the issue of development, and then encourage them to join our efforts! I hope to see you in Montreal!

From The New Student Representative on the Council

My goal as the graduate student representative of our section is to facilitate positive student-faculty and student-student relationships. I am working to do the following: establish graduate student-only events at our section's yearly conference and at ASA, gather advice from recently hired assistant professors about the job market process, and re-start the section's paper mentoring initiative. My hope is that the section can provide environments for graduate students to meet, learn from, and collaborate with one another and faculty. Please send me an email if you would like to help with these efforts or have an additional idea: jswindle@umich.edu.

New Sociology of Development Sub-Section: Feminist Development

At the October Cornell conference, several Sociology of Development section members met over lunch and agreed to form a new subsection entitled Feminist Development. This subsection is the successor to the former Gender Initiative interest group that has been inactive recently. The group elected Kristy Kelly (kk2772@columbia.edu) and Barbara Wejnert (bwejnert@buffalo.edu) as the subsection co-chairs. The purpose of the subsection is (1) to exchange information and resources on gender and development; and (2) to articulate and affirm collectively an intersectional feminist approach to development. All members of the Sociology of Development section are warmly invited to join the subsection. Please convey your interest to Kristy or Barbara who will add your name to the listserv. We will be developing a page on the Sociology of Development website, and subsection members are welcome to contribute ideas and resources. In addition to the co-chairs, founding members of the subsection include Rae Lesser Blumberg, Jennifer Keahey (Sociology of Development section webmaster), Rebecca Kruger, Susan Lee, Ann Oberhauser, Farhana Sultana, Yvonne Underhill-Sem, and Mildred Warner.

Call for Proposals to Host Annual Section Conference

Would your university like to host a future ASA Sociology of Development Section Annual Conference? If so, please send a short (2-5 page, single spaced) proposal that includes the following information to Matthew Sanderson (matt@ksu.edu) before **December 31, 2016**:

1. Leadership;
2. Dates;
3. Location and venue: Description of facilities and Interesting development-related aspects of the location;
4. Sponsoring organization(s);
5. Theme and format;
6. Resources (please indicate which if any are secured at this time): Organizational; Facilities; Financial.

Please contact Matthew Sanderson, secretary-treasurer, with any questions: matt@ksu.edu.

Call for Applications – *Sectors* Co-Editor

We are seeking a new co-editor of our section newsletter, *Sectors*. This is a great opportunity for a young scholar to become involved with the section and network with other individuals in our subfield.

The co-editor will have a two-year term from August 2017 to July 2019. During the first year (2017-2018), the new editor will work in a team with one of the current co-editors. During the second year (2018-2019), s/he will continue working with a new co-editor selected in 2018. Both co-editors will work collaboratively to shape the content and formatting of the newsletter. S/he will not only respond to submissions but seek out and develop original content for the newsletter.

Qualifications:

- Member of the Sociology of Development Section;
- Strong teamwork skills;
- Strong organizational skills, including ability to meet deadlines;
- Strong written communication skills;
- Strong MS Word and Acrobat Reader skills (both programs are currently used to format the newsletter);
- Graduate students are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Application consists of:

- brief (1-2 paragraph) statement of interest and qualifications
- one-page CV

Please submit applications to socdevsectors@gmail.com by **December 31, 2016**.

Call for 2017 ASA Section Session Submissions

Submission Deadline: January 11, 2017, 3 PM EST

1. Doing Development: Ethics, Actors, and Consequences.

Scholars and practitioners alike seek to create better societies. But do development programs and projects create the differences we intend? How do we know? This panel invites submissions on a wide variety of topics about “doing development,” including but not limited to studies of NGOs, institutions, governance, measurement, projects, perspectives, intended and unintended consequences, etc. Practitioners as well as scholars are encouraged to submit.

Session Organizer: Shai M. Dromi, Harvard University, smd327@fas.harvard.edu

2. Health and Inequality Across the Globe.

The dynamics of health policy and health care are rapidly changing around the globe. On the one hand, policymakers and health providers struggle to meet new challenges brought about by diseases such as HIV/AIDS, bird flu, swine flu, Zika, and Ebola. On the other hand, long-standing problems of unequal access to health care have been exacerbated by climate change, insufficient drinking water, forced migration, violence, aging populations, and new discriminatory policies. This panel welcomes contributions investigating health policies, health practice, health access, social inclusion, and persisting inequalities from any region of the world, or from a transnational perspective.

Session Organizer: Joseph A. Harris, Boston University, josephh@bu.edu

3. Politics and Development.

What is the relationship between politics and development? Submissions to this broadly-defined panel could engage either the formal governance of development (e.g. the role of institutions, state-NGO partnerships, local-level governance, etc.), or other struggles for political power (e.g., conflicts over land or resources, struggles for rights, political party competitions, social mobilizations, etc.).

Session Organizer: Kathleen M. Fallon, State University of New York-Stony Brook, Kathleen.Fallon@stonybrook.edu

4. *Section on Sociology of Development Refereed Roundtables (one-hour).

Session Organizer: Alexander Kentikelenis, University of Oxford, aek37@cam.ac.uk

*Session will be one-hour in length; followed by the Section’s 40-minute business meeting.

Call for 2017 Nominations for Section Awards

Nominations Deadline: March 1, 2017

Sociology of Development Outstanding Book Award

All books published in 2015 or 2016 are eligible. Please send a brief letter of nomination to Genevieve Butler (gbutler@g.harvard.edu) by **March 1, 2017**. In addition, publishers should send a copy of the nominated book to EACH of the five committee members listed below:

Jennifer Fish (chair)
Professor and Chair of
Women's Studies
3046 Batten Arts and
Letters
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529

Maryann Bylander
Lewis & Clark College
0615 SW Palatine Hill Road
SOAN- MSC 60
Portland, OR 97219

Xiaoshuo Hou
Department of Sociology
Skidmore College
815 N Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Craig Van Pelt
2564 J Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Yan Long
3436 E. Homestead Drive
Bloomington, IN 4740

Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award

Please send a brief letter of nomination and an electronic version of the article to Genevieve Butler (gbutler@g.harvard.edu) by **March 1, 2017**. If the article has been published, the copyright date must be 2015 or 2016. However, unpublished articles are also welcome. Self-nominations are encouraged.

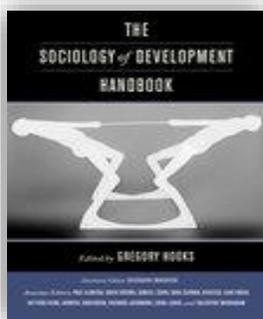
The faculty award committee is comprised of Rachel Robinson (chair), Rebecca Li, Edwin Ackerman, Besnik Pula, and Robert Wyrod.

Sociology of Development Graduate Student Paper Award

Please send a brief letter of nomination and an electronic version of the article to Genevieve Butler (gbutler@g.harvard.edu) by **March 1, 2017**. If the article has been published, the copyright date must be 2015 or 2016. However, unpublished articles are also welcome. Self-nominations are encouraged.

The student award committee is comprised of Rob Clark (Chair), Kristen Shorette, Smitha Radhakrishnan, Lorna Zukas, and Ray Jussaume.

New 2016 Section Publications

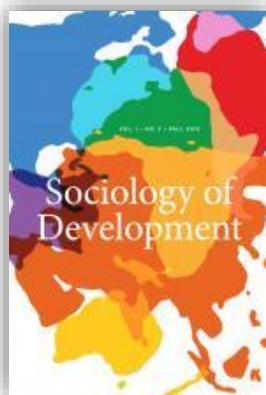


Sociology of Development Handbook. Gregory Hooks (editor). University of California Press (<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520277786>)

The Handbook gathers essays that reflect the range of debates in development sociology and in the interdisciplinary study and practice of development. The *Handbook* was designed to serve as a resource for undergraduate (upper division) and graduate courses. Reflecting the close ties between the *Handbook* and the section, royalties generated by the sale of *Handbook* will be paid to the Sociology of Development Section and used to support the section's efforts to promote and recognize the research, teaching and practice of development.

In its initial release, the *Handbook* is only available in hardcover (at a cost of \$150 and available to section members at 30% off). We are hoping that the University of Press will release the softcover edition (expected price of \$50) – sooner rather than later. In making this decision, the likelihood of adopting the *Handbook* for courses you teach would be valuable information. Please complete the *Sociology of Development – Course Adoption Survey* (<http://tinyurl.com/HandbookAdoptionSurvey>). This 10-item survey will take 2-5 minutes to complete. The results of the survey will be shared with the University of California Press.

Note: See page 28 for a Table of Contents.



Sociology of Development Journal (<http://socdev.ucpress.edu/>)

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

Frequency: Quarterly in March, June, September, and December

eISSN: 2374-538X

Note: See page 29 for a Table of Contents for the Fall and Winter 2016 issues.



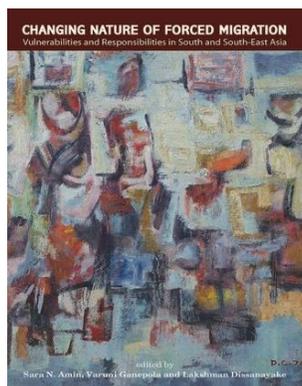
Sociology of Development Policy Briefs

Brian Dill, editor of the Policy Briefs series, is pleased to announce the latest policy brief: Mathias vom Hau, Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), has written “How Indigenous Movements (Can) Make a Difference for Development.”

This Policy Brief, as well as all of the others that have been produced to date, can be found at the following link: <https://sociologyofdevelopment.com/policybriefs/>.

NEW MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

New Books

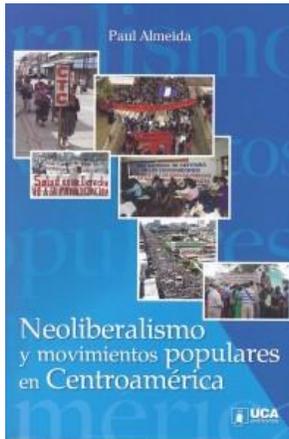


Amin, Sara N., Ganepola, Varuni, and Dissanayake, Lakshman, eds. 2016. *Changing Nature of Forced Migration: Vulnerabilities and Responsibilities in South and Southeast Asia*. Dhaka: The University Press Limited.

(<http://www.uplbooks.com/book/changing-nature-forced-migration-vulnerabilities-and-responsibilities-south-and-south-east-asia>)

Protracted conflicts, unequal burden sharing, climate change, globalization, and shifting policies regarding immigration, asylum, work and development are changing the nature of forced displacements and blurring the line between forced migration and economic migration. This book looks at migration dynamics of South and Southeast Asia examining these shifts to contribute to a more interdisciplinary and comprehensive picture of migration for both research and policy-making. We highlight research about migration patterns of groups that are often invisible in the study of migration—women, internally displaced persons (IDPs), environmental refugees and migrants, South-South migrants, and those that stay behind. Questions addressed in this book include: How do the causes and consequences of the vulnerabilities of refugees, IDPs, trafficked peoples and migrant workers intersect and diverge? How do these groups respond to and manage the challenges that their vulnerabilities pose? What do the commonalities

and specificities imply for how responsibilities should be distributed among nation-states, the international community, and regional and local actors? How are these processes mediated by gender and other identity dimensions implicated in movement of peoples?



Almeida, Paul D. 2016. *Neoliberalismo y Movimientos Populares en Centroamérica*. San Salvador: UCA Editores. (<http://laoms.org/almeida-neoliberalismo-y-movimientos-populares-en-centroamerica/>)

Luego de seis años en los que la obra de Paul Almeida, *Olas de movilización popular*, ha estado contribuyendo al estudio de los movimientos sociales salvadoreños, UCA Editores publica otra investigación suya: *Neoliberalismo y movimientos populares en Centroamérica*. En su versión inglesa, fue premiada en 2015 (Distinguished Scholarship Award – Pacific Sociological Association) y en 2016 (Honorable Mention por la American Sociological Association – Sociology of Development Section).

Almeida analiza en este libro las luchas populares en el istmo, entendidas como “campañas de protesta”, las cuales se han enfilado en las últimas décadas contra los cambios económicos ligados a la globalización neoliberal (privatizaciones, libre comercio, incremento de precios, etc.). A diferencia de las movilizaciones colectivas de largo plazo, las campañas de protesta se enfocan en políticas particulares, su movilización suele ser efímera y, por lo general, tienden a ser menos espontáneas que los disturbios porque implican, de parte de los actores involucrados, un cálculo de medios y estrategias.

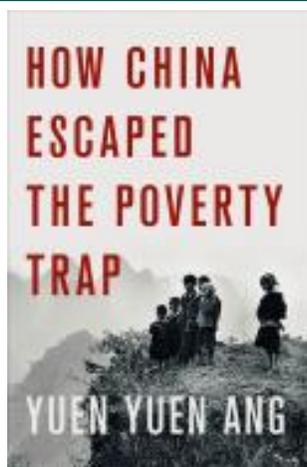
Asociaciones laborales, grupos de mujeres, indígenas, partidos de oposición, movimientos estudiantiles y de maestros, ONGs, entre muchos otros, son los sujetos principales del libro. En ocho capítulos, el autor estudia no solo el caso de cada país centroamericano, sino también examina, de manera comparativa, las coaliciones y las alianzas multisectoriales entre aquellos actores, cuyas formas de resistencia además de ser pacíficas, en ocasiones se han tornado disruptivas del sistema hegemónico.



Almeida, Paul D. and Allen Cordero, eds. 2015. *Handbook of Social Movements across Latin America*. New York: Springer.

(<http://www.springer.com/la/book/9789401799119>)

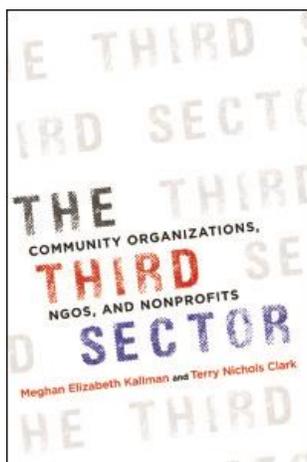
This handbook covers social movement activities in Latin American countries that have had profound consequences on the political culture of the region. It examines the developments of the past twenty years, such as a renewed upswing in popular mobilization, the ending of violent conflicts and military 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.



Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

(<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100715940>)

Before markets opened in 1978, China was an impoverished planned economy governed by a Maoist bureaucracy. In just three decades it evolved into the world's second-largest economy and is today guided by highly entrepreneurial bureaucrats. What explains this astonishing metamorphosis? Yuen Yuen Ang argues that China escaped the poverty trap by first building markets with weak institutions—that is, institutions that defy norms of good governance—and by creating the right conditions for adaptation through what she calls “directed improvisation.” Retracing the process of development in three disparate cases—late medieval Europe, antebellum United States, and contemporary Nigeria—she shows that other societies, too, had built markets with weak institutions.



Kallman, Meghan Elizabeth, and Terry Nichols Clark. 2016. *The Third Sector: Community Organizations, NGOs, and Nonprofits*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press.

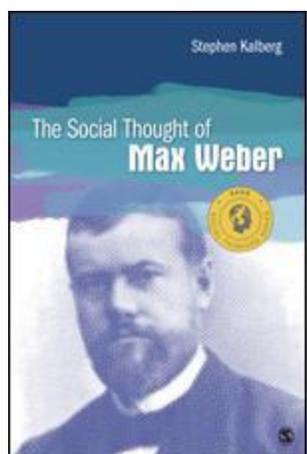
(<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/38pec9st9780252040436.html>)

The increasingly powerful constellation of groups at the crux of global affairs

Civil society organizations, nonprofits, national and international nongovernmental organizations, and a variety of formal and informal associations have coalesced into a world political force. Though the components of this so-called third sector vary by country, their cumulative effects play an ever-greater role in global affairs.

Looking at relief and welfare organizations, innovation organizations, social networks, and many other kinds of groups, Meghan Elizabeth Kallman and Terry Nichols Clark explore the functions, impacts, and composition of the nonprofit sector in six key countries. Chinese organizations, for example, follow the predominantly Asian model of government funding that links their mission to national political goals. Western groups, by contrast, often explicitly challenge government objectives, and even gain relevance and cache by doing so. In addition, Kallman and Clark examine groups in real-world contexts, providing a wealth of political-historical background, in-depth consideration of interactions with state institutions, region-by-region comparisons, and suggestions for how groups can borrow policy options across systems.

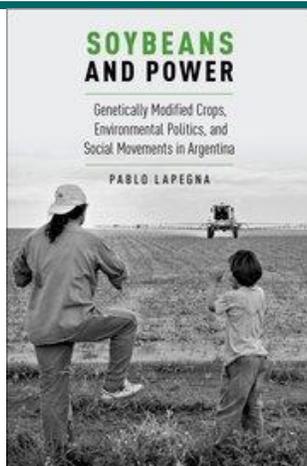
Insightful and forward-seeing, *The Third Sector* provides a rare international view of organizations and agendas driving change in today's international affairs.



Kalberg, Stephen. 2016. *The Social Thought of Max Weber*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

(<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/the-social-thought-of-max-weber/book244118>)

Stephen Kalberg's *The Social Thought of Max Weber*, the newest volume of the *SAGE Social Thinkers* series, provides a concise introduction to the work, life, and influence of Max Weber, considered to be one of three most important founders (along with Marx and Durkheim) of sociology. The book serves as an excellent introduction to the full range of Weber's major themes, and explores in detail the extent to which they are relevant today. It is ideal for use as a self-contained volume or in conjunction with other sociological theory textbooks.



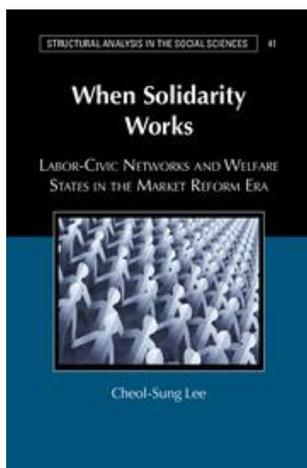
Lapegna, Pablo. 2016. *Soybeans and Power: Genetically Modified Crops, Environmental Politics, and Social Movements in Argentina*. New York: Oxford University Press. (<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/soybeans-and-power-9780190215149?lang=en&cc=us#>)

One of the first ethnographic case studies to examine the relationship between GM crops and local protest in Argentina

Explains why many rural communities initially resisted but ultimately accommodated the arrival of new agricultural biotechnologies

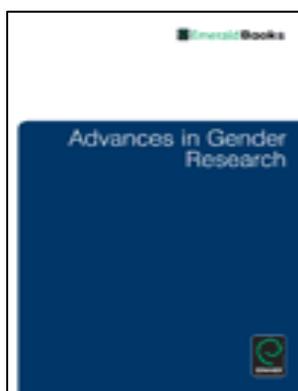
Features the stories of the families who have experienced the first-hand effects of GM expansion

Sheds light on the social and environmental consequences that can emerge from rapid economic growth



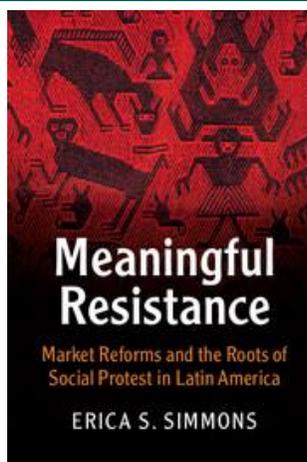
Lee, Cheol-Sung. 2016. *When Solidarity Works: Labor-civic Networks and Welfare States in the Market Reform Era*. Vol. 41. New York: Cambridge University Press. (<http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/sociology/political-sociology/when-solidarity-works-labor-civic-networks-and-welfare-states-market-reform-era?format=HB>)

Why do some labor movements successfully defend the welfare state even under the pressures of neo-liberal market reform? Why do some unions (and their allied parties and civic associations) succeed in building more universal and comprehensive social policy regimes, while others fail to do so? In this innovative work, Cheol-Sung Lee explores these conundrums through a comparative historical analysis of four countries: Argentina, Brazil, South Korea and Taiwan. He introduces the notion of “embedded cohesiveness” in order to develop an explanatory model in which labor-civic solidarity and union-political party alliance jointly account for outcomes of welfare state retrenchment as well as welfare state expansion. Lee’s exploration of the critical roles of civil society and social movement processes in shaping democratic governance and public policies make this ideal for academic researchers and graduate students in comparative politics, political sociology and network analysis.



Book Series: *Advances in Gender Research, Vol. 21 & Vol. 22*

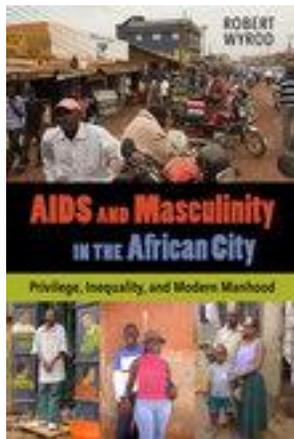
The two most recent volumes in the *Advances in Gender Research* series edited by Marcia Texler Segal & Vasilikie Demos include many chapters of interest to Development section members. In *Gender and Race Matter: Global Perspectives on Being a Woman*, guest-edited by Shaminder Takhar, members will find the four chapters in Part I: Women’s Rights, Activism, Education and Empowerment especially important. In *Gender and Food: From Production to Consumption and After*, edited by Segal and Demos, the chapter on traditional provisioning responsibilities and the one on market women, both based on research in Ghana, specifically address development-related issues as does the quantitative analysis of factors effecting child malnutrition worldwide. Both complete hardcopy volumes and individual chapters in pdf format are available for purchase at www.emeraldinsight.com.



Simmons, Erica S. 2016. *Meaningful Resistance: Market Reforms and The Roots of Social Protest in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

(<http://www.cambridge.org/bn/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/latin-american-government-politics-and-policy/meaningful-resistance-market-reforms-and-roots-social-protest-latin-america?format=PB>)

Meaningful Resistance explores the origins and dynamics of resistance to markets through a careful examination of two cases in which social movements emerged to voice and channel opposition to market reforms. Protests against water privatization in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and rising corn prices in Mexico City, Mexico, offer a lens through which to analyse and understand the mechanisms through which perceived, market-driven threats to material livelihood can prompt resistance. By exploring connections between marketization, local practices and understandings, and political protest, the book shows how the material and the ideational are inextricably linked in resistance to subsistence threats. When people perceive that markets have put subsistence at risk, material and symbolic worlds are both at stake; citizens take to the streets not only to defend their pocketbooks, but also their conceptions of community. The book advances contemporary scholarship by showing how attention to grievances in general, and subsistence resources in particular, can add explanatory leverage to analyses of contentious politics.



Wyrod, Robert. 2016. *AIDS and Masculinity in the African City: Privilege, Inequality, and Modern Manhood*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.

(<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520286696>)

AIDS has been a devastating plague in much of sub-Saharan Africa, yet the long-term implications for gender and sexuality are just emerging. *AIDS and Masculinity in the African City* tackles this issue head on and examines how AIDS has altered the ways masculinity is lived in Uganda—a country known as Africa’s great AIDS success story. Based on a decade of ethnographic research in an urban slum community in the capital Kampala, this book reveals the persistence of masculine privilege in the age of AIDS and the implications such privilege has for combating AIDS across the African continent.

New Articles and Book Chapters

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.

Carrillo, Ian R. 2016. “When farm work disappears: labor and environmental change in the Brazilian sugar-ethanol industry.” *Environmental Sociology* 1-12, published online before print, September 30.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2016.1221172>

What factors drive labor substitution in the biofuels sector? Can labor substitution engender positive environmental outcomes, such as decreasing carbon emissions? Using the Brazilian sugar–ethanol industry as a case study, this article examines the motivations and consequences of substituting machine harvesters for cane-cutters and ending field burning. Not only does this article interrogate key claims from techno-optimistic and sociological theories of environmental change on how and why producers adopt new practices, but it also highlights the role of labor in processes of environmental change. Using a multi-sited ethnographic method, I collected data in 3 ethanol-producing states in Brazil, where I interviewed 61 mill managers, variety breeders, consultants, and producer syndicate officials and conducted observations at nine mills. Two main findings emerge. First, labor challenges with farmworkers, not environmental authority, were the primary motivations for changing production practices. Second, although new practices generated positive environmental effects locally, such gains are likely to vanish at the regional level since an expanding industrial sector, with its new employment opportunities, undergirded and made viable mechanization in the biofuels sector. Overall, this article is an empirical account of how an emerging market economy seeks to balance climate change mitigation with an active development agenda.

Dawson, Andrew. 2016. “Political Violence in Consolidated Democracies: The Development and Institutionalization of Partisan Violence in Late Colonial Jamaica (1938-1962).” *Social Science History* 40(2): 185-218.

Past research suggests that although political violence in mature democracies is rare, it does occasionally occur along ethnic, religious and/or linguistic lines. Jamaica is an exceptional case in that it is a relatively mature democracy that experiences political violence between demographically similar groups. This article examines the origins of political violence in Jamaica—that is, the conditions that led to its development, intensification and institutionalization during the late colonial period. Through original archival research, this article supports past findings identifying personality politics, the politicization of race/class divisions and clientelism as contributing factors to the development of political violence. The research also, however, makes a major new contribution by providing evidence that colonial non-intervention during the early stages of political violence was a crucial factor leading to its escalation and then institutionalization. This finding gives the British colonial state a different and more central role than the extant literature suggests and has broader implications for all democracies.

Enríquez, Laura J., and Simeon J. Newman. 2016. “The Conflicted State and Agrarian Transformation in Pink Tide Venezuela.” *Journal of Agrarian Change* 16(4): 594-626.

Can radical political-economic transformation be achieved by electoral regimes that have not thoroughly reconstructed the state? Contemporary Venezuela offers an optimal venue for examining this question. The *Chavista* movement did not replace the previous state: instead, its leaders attempted to reform existing state entities and establish new ones in pursuit of its transformation agenda. It has also used its oil wealth to support cooperatively-oriented economic activity, without necessarily fundamentally altering the property structure. Thus, the social change-oriented political economy exists alongside the traditional one. Focusing on agrarian transformation, we examine ethnographically how these factors have impacted the state’s capacity to attain its goal of national food sovereignty. We find that the state’s ability to accomplish this objective has been compromised by *lack of agency-level capacity*, *inter-agency conflict* and *the persistence of the previously-extant agrarian property structure*. These dynamics have influenced the state to shift from its initial objective of food sovereignty to a policy of nationalist food security.

Lachmann, Richard. 2016. “States, Citizen Rights and Global Warming.” *Revue internationale de philosophie* 1: 15-35.

How will citizen rights be affected by global warming and related environmental disasters? Citizen rights have been demanded of and conferred by nation states. As a result, the benefits of citizenship remain highly variable across nations. Several schools of scholarship argue that nation states are weakening due to neoliberalism (Harvey), the rise of a world culture (Meyer), or privileged individuals’ ability to shield themselves from risk (Beck, Giddens). This article addresses those claims against the likely consequences of global warming. I begin with a brief review of theories on the origins of and durability of nationalism and examine how such theories account for variability in social and political rights and group identities across the globe. I then identify the ways in which those theories have been challenged by accounts of neoliberalism, world culture, and risk society. Various reports by scientific societies, global agencies and the US government identify the likely consequences of global warming. I propose the likely reactions by states to those consequences and identify the effects those actions will have on national identity and citizen rights.

Paret, Marcel, and Carin Runciman. 2016. “The 2009+ South African Protest Wave.” *WorkingUSA: The Journal of Labor and Society* 19(3): 301-319.

South Africa is not typically mentioned in studies of recent global protest. But popular resistance surged in South Africa from 2009, reaching a peak of more than one protest per day in 2012. We examine the 2009+ South African protest wave, highlighting its sources, antecedents, primary features, and key consequences. Marked by an explosion of popular resistance in both communities and workplaces, we argue that the protest wave shares key features with recent protests elsewhere. Most importantly, they are propelled by forces of marketization and critique the failures of democracy. The protest wave had a major impact on South African politics, instigating the emergence of new challenges to the dominance of the Alliance between the African National Congress (ANC)—the ruling party—the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the South African Communist Party (SACP). But the current political trajectory is far from stable, and the future is remarkably uncertain.

Paret, Marcel. 2016. "Contested ANC Hegemony in the Urban Townships: Evidence from the 2014 South African Election." *African Affairs* 115(460): 419-442.

Is ANC hegemony stable or in decline? The 2014 election provided support for both interpretations, as the ANC registered its fifth consecutive victory but with a declining share of the vote, especially in urban areas. In what ways and among which groups is the ANC maintaining its hegemony? This study draws on an exit survey of 3,782 voters in sixteen communities in and around Gauteng Province, with a particular focus on impoverished and protest-affected urban townships. The results show that while the ANC continues to derive power from its role as the party of national liberation, pluralistic party competition is deepening. This competition centres on the quality of governance and material provision such as houses and social grants, and is refracted through divisions based on age, gender, race, and ethnicity. Evidence also suggests that protests in communities and workplaces are translating into support for opposition parties such as the EFF, implying a broader challenge to ANC hegemony.

Paret, Marcel. 2016. "Politics of Solidarity and Agency in an Age of Precarity." *Global Labor Journal* 7(2): 174-188.

This article critically examines Guy Standing's *A Precariat Charter* by posing three questions: 1) What is the significance of the North/South divide for the global spread of the precariat? 2) Is the precariat an agent of transformation, or simply a passive recipient? 3) How should we understand the fragmentation of the working class and its implications for progressive change? In addressing these questions, I argue that Standing's analysis offers useful insights into the current era of insecurity. But it downplays important variations in forms of precarity, and also over-emphasises fragmentation and weakness. The limits of this approach are illustrated through two empirical examples drawn from Johannesburg, South Africa, and Oakland, United States. Taken together, these examples point towards a broader and more fluid understanding of the "working class". They also underscore possibilities for working-class solidarity, both between stable workers and their more precarious counterparts, and between different groups that Standing identifies as the precariat.

Paret, Marcel. 2016. "Precarious Class Formations in the United States and South Africa." *International Labor and Working Class History* 89(Spring): 84-106.

Recent scholarship highlights the global expansion of precarious layers of the working class. This article examines the growth and collective struggles of such precarious layers in two very different places: California, United States, and Gauteng, South Africa. The comparison challenges and extends existing research in two ways. First, it shows that the spread of insecurity is far from uniform, taking different forms in different places. Lack of citizenship is more crucial for workers in California, whereas underemployment is more crucial for workers in Gauteng. Second, it shows that insecure segments of the working class are capable of developing collective agency. This agency may be rooted in identities that extend beyond precarious employment, and will reflect the particular forms of insecurity that are prevalent in the given context. Such diversity is illustrated by examining May Day protests in California and community protests around service delivery in Gauteng.

Paret, Marcel. 2016. "Towards a Precarity Agenda." *Global Labor Journal* 7(2): 111-122.

It is widely acknowledged that the closing decades of the twentieth century, and the early decades of the twenty-first century, have been marked by growing economic insecurity across the globe. But how we understand this process is highly contested. What are the sources of economic insecurity? To what extent do contemporary forms of economic and political organisation mark a break from the past? What analytical tools do we need to make sense of the current moment? Are new concepts needed, or will well-established concepts suffice? What are the implications of growing economic insecurity for questions of agency, solidarity, class struggle and social change? How does economic insecurity

relate to various forms of collective organisation such as trade unions, political parties and community-based organisations?

Ren, Xuefei. 2016. "Land acquisition, rural protests, and the local state in China and India," *Environment and Planning C*, published online before print, July 4. doi: 10.1177/0263774X16655802

As China and India urbanize, land acquisition by state and private actors has become highly contentious in both countries. This article compares two large-scale anti-land acquisition protests—the Wukan protest in China’s Guangdong province and the Singur protest in the Indian state of West Bengal—to examine how the subnational state partakes in land acquisition and how rural protesters engage with different levels of the state in their resistance. The comparative analysis finds that the different involvement of the subnational state in land speculation has produced different spatiality and dynamics of protests. In China, rural protesters target the bottom-level authority such as village councils, often taking on a cellular form of mobilization geographically confined to their particular villages. By comparison, in India rural protesters target the regional state governments and they engage in associational forms of mobilization by building ad hoc alliances with political parties and NGOs beyond the affected villages. Although the larger context of political regimes should be taken into account, this article shows that the scales at which the subnational state partakes in land acquisition have largely shaped the spatiality and strategies of rural protests.

So, Alvin Y. 2016. "Beneath the miracle: corruption, sex, and truth in post-Mao China." *Critical Asian Studies* 48(4): 597-604. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14672715.2016.1237473>

MEMBER NEWS

2016 Job Market Candidates

Ian Carrillo, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Sociology/Community and Environmental Sociology

Specializations: Development; Environmental sociology; Economic sociology; Comparative-Historical Sociology

Dissertation Title: "Fire, Families, and Farmworkers: Changes in Power and Opportunity in the Cane Fields"

Abstract: My dissertation investigates the challenges of balancing equitable development with environmental sustainability in renewable fuels production. Using the Brazilian sugar-ethanol industry as a case study, I find that business growth challenges relations between owners, workers, and the environment. On one hand, many mills adopt mechanical harvesters to lower production costs, which eliminates the brutal task of cane-cutting and the harmful practice of pre-harvest field burning on mills. On the other hand, the newfound importance of flat land suitable for mechanization leads mill owners to acquire large swaths of farmland, a process environmental scholars have called "land grabbing." Underlying these economic and agronomic changes are challenges to the prevailing social order, with migrant farmworkers receiving higher wages and sugarcane elites scrambling to secure flat farmland to maintain the family patrimony. To collect data, I conducted a multi-sited ethnography of the Brazilian sugar-ethanol industry in which I interviewed elite stakeholders, such as mill managers, variety breeders, producer syndicate officials, and consultants, and observed activities at mills. I conducted fieldwork in the states of Pernambuco, Alagoas, and São Paulo, which have major sugar-ethanol operations.

Email: icarrillo@wisc.edu

Website: <http://iancarrillo.com>

Summer M. Gray, University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Santa Cruz

Specializations: Environmental Sociology; Development; Coastal Modification; Climate Change Adaptation

Dissertation Title: "If These Walls Could Talk: A Global Ethnography of Sea Change"

Abstract: In the context of widespread and impending sea change, coastal vulnerability must be understood in connection to the ways in which shorelines have been modified across space and time, from colonial encounters to schemes for economic development and climate adaptation. This dissertation untangles the diverse relationships that exist across shorelines and technologies of coastal modification through a relational ethnography of seawalls. As seawalls become measures of last resort for communities large and small, from urban cities to villages and private homes, the existing literature is largely focused on contemporary examples in the United States, overlooking the historical complexities of

coastal modification within and between the developed and underdeveloped regions of the world. This study addresses the problem of coastal vulnerability by focusing on the cultural and social dynamics of seawalls in Guyana, the Maldives, Venice, and the Netherlands and is based on two years of fieldwork and a total of sixty-two open-ended interviews and nine focus groups, touching upon the lived experiences of 120 individuals. Analysis across these sites reveals how the emerging and uneven geographies of sea change and the politics of climate adaptation intersect with shorelines manufactured within cultures of extraction, development, and science.

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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), in addition to receiving an Honorable Mention from our section. He was also the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar Fellowship from 2015 to 2017 in Honduras for a project entitled, “Nongovernmental Organizations and Community Well-Being.”

Summer M. Gray, University of California, Santa Cruz, received the 2016 Lancaster Dissertation Award in Social Sciences, an honor given to one dissertation at the University of California, Santa Barbara once every two years.

Xuefei Ren, Associate Professor of Sociology and Global Urban Studies, Michigan State University, is awarded the 2016-2017 Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. She is based at the Newberry Library and the University of Chicago completing a new book manuscript on urban governance in China and India. She has also received a grant from the Humanities without Walls initiative to produce a photo-documentary on Detroit and rust belt China.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

How Do We Decolonize Research? by Emily Willard (University of Washington)

As I prepared to conduct my preliminary research this past summer, I was concerned about being a researcher from United States traveling to Central America to do my dissertation research. I am deeply aware of the current and historic role that the United States has played in Latin America, and the complicated and painful power dynamics that could arise with my project (Smith 2012). At the same time, I have been interested in and invested in human rights research and advocacy in Guatemala for the past ten years. How could I honor my own true interest and passion without recolonizing through my research?

Deliberate Conversations

In my program, there is a strong focus toward the positivist approach (Gerring 2012) which trains the researcher to objectively study our “subjects,” and that as

social scientists, we can predict outcomes and discover a singular universal truth. I was always uncomfortable with this approach, but wasn’t finding any alternatives. So, I went outside of my department, and was luckily able to take classes about decolonizing research methods, and solicit advice from professors who explicitly focus on this. The deliberate seeking out of alternative perspectives gave me immense support that I needed to do research in a way that made sense to me.

In the field, I spoke to potential collaborators about my research as having an outcome that is my dissertation, but I also wanted other outcomes that would be useful to the communities whom which I worked. I specifically asked if my research questions made sense to them, and asked for clarification and new ideas and alternate perspectives when my approaches didn’t resonate with the potential collaborators.

Planning and Revising Plans

In making travel plans, I wanted to give myself a landing place where I could adjust to the language and my surroundings, but also be productive and start to meet people and make connections. I signed up to take language classes at a school that had politically active and socially aware teachers and programming--topics which are related to my research. This gave me the perfect jumping off point, and also put me in the position where I could ask questions and learn from those around me.

As directed by my department, I had arrived to the field with a specific research question. However, I also went into the field knowing that I may have to drastically change my research questions and approach if I wanted to avoid recolonizing with my work. Through very deliberate conversations and lots of listening, I was able to adjust my research questions and approach in important ways in order to be more relevant to the people and realities on the ground. For me, it was key to have an initial plan that was well thought out, but also be willing to completely revise and rebuild that plan from the bottom up if needed.

Motivations and Commitments

In the field, I often felt overwhelmed and pressure to get the data that I needed, and have tangible products that I could return with as a sign of success. However, when I

would feel this pressure, I would ask myself where was this coming from? It was often to meet department expectations and deadlines, which are important, but I reminded myself that I also have a commitment to the people with whom I want to work. When I acted in response to motivations of service and working collaboratively—and not on producing a product—I found my mind more open to new ideas. I picked up clues on how to change my research so that it better reflected reality on the ground, resulting in better research.

References:

- Gerring, John. 2012. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework* (2nd ed., Strategies for social inquiry). Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. 2012. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* (2nd ed.). London and Dunedin, N.Z.: Zed Books; University of Otago Press.

Emily Willard is a PhD student at the University of Washington and a research fellow at the UW Center for Human Rights, focusing her research on government documents and community archives. Previously, she worked at the National Security Archive in Washington, DC, and was a 2014 Rotary Peace Fellow.

On Being Non-White and Non-Neutral: Fieldwork of a Racialized Researcher, by Syeda Masood (Brown University)

I was in a brightly lit office on the second floor. Through the large window, one could see vibrant flowers in bloom in the well-tended garden below. One could also see a large white NATO surveillance blimp in the pale blue sky. It was the summer of 2016 and I was in Kabul. I was sitting with an Afghan academic in his office to have a more detailed discussion on my research idea. I am studying the ways in which Afghan national identity was (re)constructed by national and transnational actors after the US and its allies gained power in the country in 2001.

The academic: “I thought about your idea a lot. To be honest, it would be hard for you to work on that project as a Pakistani. As a Pakistani, you are suspicious. No one would say anything but would think that whatever they say might end up with the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI).”

Me: “So is my research even practical?”

The academic: “It is, but you should tell people that your project is comparative between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Then it would still be *believable*. Europeans and Americans are seen as neutral researchers but people from this region are not.”

What the friendly academic meant was that the perceived identity of the researcher lends itself to her research being deemed credible or not. This conversation is very telling about the current Afghan context. A long history of overt and covert wars has made recognition fraught. The recognition of my humanity is mired in discourses and memories of powerful foreign actors intruding in Afghan affairs. While well-respected theorists like Marx, Sartre and Fanon saw violence as a response to misrecognition (Villet 2011), in this context, saturated with physical and symbolic violence, it is an impediment to full recognition rather than a response to misrecognition.

On first glance, it is Afghanistan's enduring border dispute with Pakistan which shapes how I am perceived. This "Durand line" is a vestige of an agreement between Afghan monarch Amir Abdur Rahman Khan and Mortimer Durand of the British Raj. Afghan state claims that this agreement is moot since the creation of a new entity called Pakistan. With this colonial and resulting postcolonial history, my being "from the region" made me suspect.

The academic advisor's second comment illuminates who, in that Afghan context, is seen as a valid researcher. When he said "Europeans and Americans", he did not include me in that group even though I *am* an American. Perhaps it is my brown skin or perhaps it is the disciplining of my body that shapes the movement of my facial muscles and tongue in creating an English accent which does not let me pass as the *neutral* researcher. Although white Americans and Europeans are lauded for ambitions to go beyond their heritage, researchers like me are apparently suspect if we study a country "not our own".

The image of the neutral "European or American" researcher is not because their countries are neutral towards Afghanistan (it is quite the contrary as the blimp constantly reminded us). This positive image is historically contingent. Reading this comment with Fanon's *Black Skin White Masks* (2008) or DuBois' conception of whiteness (Itzigsohn and Brown 2015), one can theorize that the ideal European or American is white and is seen by non-white people as the model (of virtue). Even DuBois and Fanon were not exempt from this thinking. For Fanon, it was the etiquette of the white man that might be embraced, while for DuBois it was his education which could be adapted. Still in 2016, the virtue of neutrality is assigned to the white researcher of the postcolonial world even while a long history of conquest from his "imagined communities" reflects that he is anything but (Anderson 2006).

NATO blimp keeping perpetual watch on Kabul city



As for immigrants like me, it's not only in the US that we have to hear "Where are you really from?" but even during fieldwork, either we have to research "our countries" or justify our deviance.

References:

- Anderson, Benedict. 2006. *Imagined communities: Reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism*. London and New York: Verso Books.
- Fanon, Frantz. 2008. *Black skin, white masks*. New York: Grove Press.
- Itzigsohn, José, and Karida Brown. 2015. "Sociology and the Theory of Double Consciousness." *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 12(2): 231-248.
- Villet, Charles. 2011. *The Genealogy of Misrecognition from Hegel to Fanon*. St Augustine College, Johannesburg.

Syeda Quratulain Masood is a PhD student in Sociology at Brown University. She is interested in studying how transnational knowledge flows, policies and power shapes nationalism in Muslim majority countries. She has conducted research in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PAPERS Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM)

June 18-21, 2017, Stockholm, Sweden

The Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM) is an international geography conference organized every second year. The conference theme is “Geographies of inequalities”. The organizers for the “Unequal Scales of Global/Local and the Sexuality of Development in South-Asia” Session are accepting paper abstracts.

Description of Session: Gender identity and sexuality politics in South Asia can be conceived of as spatial, temporal, and corporeal convergences. In recent times, South Asia has been witness to major environmental disasters such as the earthquakes in Nepal, major floods in India and Bangladesh, as well as regional imbalances in the circulation of global capital. These disparate nature-culture-capital interactions potentially converge to create specific spatial/sexual formations such as dislocations and relocations of diverse queer subjects. This panel builds upon scholarship related to sex and development (Banerjea 2014; Boyce 2007; Dutta & Roy 2014; Hossain 2012; Leigh Pigg & Adams 2005; Nagar & DasGupta 2015) in South Asia through connecting the local and the global, nature-culture and capital. Since the 1990’s international development projects in South Asia have begun to think about the interconnections of economic inequality and sexuality largely through reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues. This panel invites new thinking about how international development, unequal scales of globalization, rural/urban dislocations, and disaster management remain inter-imblicated with sexual(ity) politics in South Asia.

Session organizers: Debanuj DasGupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, The University of Connecticut; Paul Boyce, Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and International Development, The University of Sussex; Rohit K. DasGupta, Lecturer in Media and Creative Industries, Loughborough University.

Application: Please submit your brief abstracts within 200 words to Debanuj DasGupta: debanuj.dasgupta@uconn.edu **by December 16.**

For more information visit: <http://www.humangeo.su.se/english/ngm-2017/programme/sessions/session-f4>.

CALL FOR GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP APPLICATIONS

Graduate Student Workshop on Socio-Environmental Synthesis: Interdisciplinary Skill Building, Collaboration, and Proposal Writing

March 7-10, 2017, Annapolis, Maryland, USA

Applications are now being accepted for SESYNC’s fourth Graduate Student Workshop on Socio-Environmental Synthesis. As part of this highly interactive workshop, graduate students from across disciplines and from around the world will participate in sessions and activities designed to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, team formation, and scientific proposal development while also building a variety of other skills crucial to the success of socio-environmental (S-E) synthesis, including effective communication across disciplines and incorporating diverse data types.

Workshop participants will also have the opportunity to engage with and receive feedback from S-E synthesis scholars and practitioners. Featured topics include:

- Interdisciplinary team science and team skills
- Interdisciplinary science communication
- Interdisciplinary proposal writing and design
- Bridging scientific knowledge to decision-making

To learn more, please visit our [website](#).

Workshop Application Deadline: **January 13, 2017.**

CALL FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS FROM CAORC

Andrew W. Mellon Mediterranean Regional Research Fellowship Program

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) is pleased to offer a focused regional fellowship program enabling pre- and early postdoctoral scholars to carry out research in the humanities and related social sciences in countries bordering the Mediterranean and served by American overseas research centers. Funding for this program is generously provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Eligibility/ Applicants must:

- be a US citizen or Permanent Resident;
- be a doctoral candidate or a scholar who obtained his/her PhD within the last ten years (September 2006 or later);
- propose a three to nine month humanities or related social science research project;
- propose travel to one or more Mediterranean region country, at least one of which hosts a participating American overseas research center:
 - American Academy in Rome
 - American Center of Oriental Research in Amman
 - American Institute for Maghrib Studies, with centers in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia
 - American Research Center in Egypt
 - American Research Institute in Turkey
 - American School of Classical Studies at Athens
 - Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute
 - Palestinian American Research Center
 - W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem

Applications: Applications for the Mellon Mediterranean Regional Research Fellowship Program are now available at orc fellowships. fluidreview.com. The deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2017** and announcements are expected to be made by the end of April 2017. More information can be found [here](#).



Multi-Country Fellowship Program

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers Multi-Country Research Fellowship Program supports advanced regional or trans-regional research in the humanities, social sciences, or allied natural sciences for US doctoral candidates and scholars who have already earned their PhD. Preference will be given to candidates examining comparative and/or cross-regional research. Scholars must carry out research in two or more countries outside the United States, at least one of which hosts a participating American overseas research center. Approximately eight awards of up to \$10,500 each will be given each year.

Eligibility/ Applicants must:

- be a US citizen. Proof of citizenship (photocopy of passport) must be shown upon award notification;
- have a PhD or be a doctoral candidate who has completed all PhD requirements with the exception of the dissertation;
- be engaged in the study of and research in the humanities, social sciences, and allied natural sciences;
- seek to conduct research of regional or trans-regional significance in two or more countries outside the United States, one of which must host a participating American overseas research center (ORC).

Applications: Applications for the Multi-Country Research Fellowship Program are now available at orc fellowships. fluidreview.com. The deadline for submissions is **January 30, 2017** and announcements are expected to be made by the end of April 2017. More information can be found [here](#).

National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Research Fellowship Program

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers is pleased to announce the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Senior Research Fellowship Program, which supports advanced research in the humanities for US postdoctoral scholars, and foreign national postdoctoral scholars who have been residents in the US for three or more years. Fellowship stipends are \$4,200 per month for a total of four months.

Eligibility/Applicants must:

- carry out research in a country which hosts a participating American overseas research center. Eligible countries for 2016-2017 are: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cyprus, Georgia, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Senegal, Sri Lanka or Tunisia;
- be post-doctoral scholars;
- be United States citizens or foreign nationals who have been residents in the United States for the three years immediately preceding the application deadline for the grant.

Applications: Applications for the NEH Senior Research Fellowship Program are now available at orc fellowships.fluidreview.com. The deadline for submissions is **January 30, 2017** and announcements are expected to be made by the end of April 2017. More information can be found [here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sociology of Development Global Health and Development Special Issue

Sociology of Development invites papers for a special issue on Global Health and Development. The issue welcomes sociological contributions across thematic foci and analytic approaches. Potential topics could include (but are by no means limited to): comparative analyses of health policies and policymaking, international organizations and health, inequalities in health outcomes, gender, class, race/ethnicity, and health, globalization and health challenges, migration and health in global perspective, and mental health policies and inequalities across the globe. Manuscripts should be approximately 8,000 words in length, including references, tables and figures. Click here for formatting instructions. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2017. All manuscripts should be submitted online through the journal's submission system. Please clearly state in your cover letter that the manuscript is for consideration in the Global Health and Development special issue. Questions about the special issue can be directed to the guest editor: Shiri Noy, at snoy@uwoy.edu. Submission Deadline: **March 31, 2017**.

ADVANCE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Conference on Global Production

6-8th December, 2017, National University of Singapore

The Global Production Networks Research Centre at the National University of Singapore (GPN@NUS) is pleased to announce that it will host the inaugural interdisciplinary 'Conference on Global Production' in December 2017.

Background: Global production networks – understood as organizationally and geographically fragmented global production systems coordinated by powerful lead firms – have now become the key structural foundation of the contemporary global economy and the primary shaper of its highly variegated economic development outcomes. The study of this phenomenon, also commonly referred to as global value chains, has become a highly vibrant and truly global interdisciplinary research field encompassing economic geography, international economics, economic sociology, political science, international political economy, development studies and international business studies, and one that has increasing purchase and relevance among international organizations and other important policy audiences.

Rationale: This conference is intended to bring together the research community studying fragmented global production systems in a cutting-edge dialogue that is both truly global and genuinely interdisciplinary. The intention is to generate

intense and productive conversations across the interconnected domains of theory, empirics, methodology and policy in a conference that is thematically organised as opposed to being structured along disciplinary lines.

Conference themes encompass, but are not limited to, the following:

- Global production networks and uneven regional development
- The origins and evolution of global production networks
- Firm-to-firm trade and participation in global production networks
- Boundaries of the firm in global production networks
- Transnational corporations and global production networks
- Fragmentation of production and trade in value-added
- Innovation and technological trajectories in global production networks
- Varieties of national organization, institutions, and global production networks
- Governance of global production networks
- The regulatory effects of global production networks
- The (geo)politics of global production networks
- Global production networks and international security
- Global production networks and contentious politics
- The labour process and global production networks
- Global production networks and stratification in the world economy
- Global production networks, environmental standards and sustainability
- Economic, social and environmental upgrading in global production networks
- Global production networks and consumption dynamics
- Financing/financializing global production networks
- The role of services in global production networks
- Methodology in the study of global production networks
- Policy applications and implications of global production networks

About GPN@NUS: GPN@NUS is a cross-department research centre in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences that is funded by a US\$4m grant from the National University of Singapore and which launched a four-year research programme in October 2014. Bringing together a team of 20 academics and affiliated researchers from economic geography, economic sociology, political science and international trade economics, our work endeavours to understand the configuration of global production structures (a.k.a. global production networks/global value chains) and their impacts on economic development across Asia. Research is ongoing on the auto, electronics, finance, logistics, and oil and gas sectors. The Centre is co-directed by Henry Yeung and Neil Coe. For more on our activities, see: <http://gpn.nus.edu.sg/>.

Confirmed speakers:

- Richard Appelbaum (University of California, Santa Barbara)
- Jennifer Bair (University of Virginia)
- Stephanie Barrientos (University of Manchester)
- Lee Branstetter (Carnegie Mellon University)
- Gavin Bridge (Durham University)
- Dieter Ernst (East-West Center, Hawaii)
- Gary Gereffi (Duke University)
- Martin Hess (University of Manchester)
- Patrick Low (Graduate Institute, Geneva)
- Layna Mosely (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- John Pickles (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- Stefano Ponte (Copenhagen Business School)
- John Ravenhill (University of Waterloo)
- Adrian Smith (Queen Mary, University of London)
- Shang-Jin Wei (Asian Development Bank/Columbia University)
- Yuqing Xing (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo)

Conference organizing committee: Neil Coe (co-chair; Geography, NUS); Henry Yeung (co-chair; Geography, NUS); Aidan Wong (coordinator; GPN@NUS); Davin Chor (Economics, NUS); Soo Yeon Kim (Political Science, NUS); Solee Shin (Sociology, NUS); Dione Ng (GPN@NUS)

Further details: Further details on the conference timeline, registration processes, recommended accommodation, etc., will be made available on our website (<http://gpn.nus.edu.sg/>) early in 2017. At this stage, it is anticipated that the conference registration fee will be in the region of US\$100 (including lunches, tea and coffee). Up to five grants of US\$1,500 will be made available in due course to contribute to the costs of early career researchers.

Enquiries: Please direct any initial enquiries to Aidan Wong (aidanwong@nus.edu.sg). We will be compiling a direct conference mailing list, so let Aidan know if you would like to be added to that list.

IHDS DATA

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS I and II) is a nationally representative, multi-topic survey of 41,554 households in 1503 villages and 971 urban neighborhoods across India. The first round of interviews were completed in 2004-5; IHDS reinterviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152). Data can be downloaded at no cost from ICPSR at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/DSDR/series/00507>.

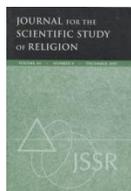
Please visit our website www.ihds.umd.edu for more information about our study.

DEVELOPMENT TOCs



BOOK SERIES: ADVANCES IN GENDER RESEARCH, VOL. 21 & VOL.22

The two most recent volumes in the **Advances in Gender Research** series edited by Marcia Texler Segal & Vasiliki Demos include many chapters of interest to Development section members. In Volume 21, *Gender and Race Matter: Global Perspectives on Being a Woman*, guest-edited by Shaminder Takhar, members will find the four chapters in Part I: Women's Rights, Activism, Education and Empowerment especially important. In Volume 22, *Gender and Food: From Production to Consumption and After* edited by Segal and Demos the chapter on traditional provisioning responsibilities and the one on market women, both based on research in Ghana, specifically address development-related issues as does the quantitative analysis of factors effecting child malnutrition worldwide. Both complete hardcopy volumes and individual chapters in pdf format are available for purchase at <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/series/agr>.



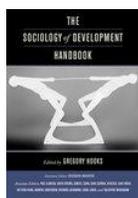
JOURNAL OF THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION

Forum on Religion and Development

Vol. 55, Issue 2, June 2016

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jssr.2016.55.issue-2/issuetoc>

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Stephen Offutt, LiErin Probasco and Brandon Vaidyanathan
Version of Record online: 6 AUG 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/jssr.12270
- **What Religion Affords Grassroots NGOs: Frames, Networks, Modes of Action** (pages 216–232)
Allison Schnable
Version of Record online: 11 AUG 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/jssr.12272
- **Prayer, Patronage, and Personal Agency in Nicaraguan Accounts of Receiving International Aid** (pages 233–249)
LiErin Probasco
Version of Record online: 6 AUG 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/jssr.12263



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EDITORS' CHOICE

Reflections on Europe's Refugee Crisis and International Development: An Interview with Sophia Koufopoulou

By Sophia Koufopoulou and Kelly Birch Maginot (Michigan State University)

In October 2015, Sophia Koufopoulou first saw the Moria Refugee Camp at night. She had driven a family to the camp so that they would avoid the long walk from the coast. However, when she tried to leave, it was impossible to maneuver her car through the fences and hundreds of people. She recalls, “A young man wearing a green sweatshirt appears and tries to guide me. Another 50 meters. I give up and the green bloused young man asks to help me by driving my car with the help of another refugee man. I walk behind the car. The way he drives it, he obviously enjoys it. Who knows when he drove the last time. Then he comes out and he gives me the keys. His face is lighted with a big smile. He reminds me of my son when he drove for the first time. His eyes are big, sweet, and shiny. I thank him with a big *shukran* [thank you], and I try to give him something. He refuses politely and he still smiles. He is so proud that he helped this old aged lady.”

For Sophia, this story indicates that refugees act as agents throughout their journey, that they are strong and resilient people, rather than stock victims. In this interview, she shares insights into how the current refugee crisis in Greece can influence research, teaching, and theory-building in the field of international development.



Photo Credit: Isabel Ayala (Michigan State University)

What is the current situation in Greece, regarding refugee and migration flows?

Every day is different [in Lesbos]. Every day brings a new reality, and that's why in order to understand it today you need to be keeping a continuum of what is happening and what has happened in the past. Let's say that a researcher or a journalist wants to give a presentation today, perhaps his presentation, his data, today's data are very different from yesterday's data. And this is the most difficult thing when it comes to any kind of approach, any kind of perspective, any research that is trying to figure out the refugee issue and all the different events. So, to talk about today, we need to remember that last year the refugee numbers were very high, at least on the island of Lesbos. In October 2015, you had the biggest refugee flow with an arrival of approximately 120,000 people in one month and 70,000 in November and around 40,000 in December, and this is associated with the weather, because let's not forget that the Aegean Sea can be very rough during the winter months because of the winds. Everything started to change after the [European-Turkish agreement](#). Beginning March 20th, 2015, numbers went down. And this summer, until the so-called "July Coup," there were weeks that we had no arrivals, for example, in one week there were two-to-three boats, with a total number of 150 people in one week or 10 days, so the numbers really went down. The explanation that I can give is that Erdogan was keeping his part of the deal. In other words, he was forcing his police to arrest people that were trying to leave Turkey illegally. ... Everything changed after the July Coup in Turkey. Then the numbers went up. The numbers had been an average of approximately 50 people daily, perhaps even less. The Moria Camp, in other words the migrant detention center, can afford, in terms of land for the tents, 2,000 people, and at this point it holds around 4,000. Why? Because all these new arrivals, who have come since July, did not receive their papers to continue to Athens.

The other interesting thing is that all the people asking for asylum or appealing rejected asylum cases have to live on the island or on other islands such as Chios, Samos, and Kos. They cannot move, and they cannot go to the mainland. What does this mean? In Lesbos, for example, during summer 2016, many big charter companies stopped their trips to the island of Lesbos directly from Europe, and flights and tourism decreased dramatically. ... It's a disaster for the island.

Additionally, Greece is a transit area for refugees. In Greece, there is no discussion of resettlement. Greece has one of the highest unemployment rates [in Europe]; why would they want to stay there? They want to go to Germany, because they want to work. I use the concept of Simmel's (1908) "the stranger," because for me the time factor is very important. Simmel uses the concept of "sojourner" and asserts that a wanderer is one who is wandering around, but a stranger comes to stay. I argue that at the beginning of the crisis all these refugees were wanderers, they were coming to Lesbos and then leaving for mainland Europe. And then the wanderers become strangers because they do not leave the island and at that point, xenophobia grows but even the refugees themselves do not wish to stay. They want to go to Athens and then mainland Europe to meet their family. So their identity is not a stranger, it is a wanderer. They feel that they are trapped on the island. Moreover, at a certain point you have another group of strangers, the international NGOs that arrive.

How has your work in Lesbos influenced your understanding of international development?

From an international development perspective, we are entering a phase in which we need to rethink the nation-state. Perhaps it is the time to start to rethink the foundations and the core principals of the nation-state, because what is happening now with the refugee crisis is that this refugee crisis is very different than any other refugee crisis. First, it is occurring in Europe. ... This was the first big problem when we were there at that time; everyone [from international NGOs] was saying, "We never operate on European soil; all of our work is outside of Europe." So international NGOs have had to change their policies.

The second challenge they had to face was the diverse populations that were coming. You have such a wide diversity of people: Kurds, Syrians, Iraqis, and Africans. This is one of the biggest challenges for the NGOs that work with the populations there. At one point during the summer, they had 70 different language needs. You needed Spanish, French, Tamil, Thai, Bengali, Swahili—whatever language you have, it's there. That's why the International Organization for Migration hires interpreters, but there are never enough. And how many people you know that speak Tamil and Greek? So sometimes you have translations from Greek to English, then English to Tamil, which is why the asylum process is very slow. I call that detention camp, supposedly a "reception center," the "Tower of Babel." Refugees also come from different religions, different cultures, different classes, and different educational backgrounds. So how are we using an intersectionality approach? I believe it is time in refugee studies to use a new approach to the current refugee crisis, which will connect but at the same time differentiate this population. Within this approach, gender, religion, class, education, and culture—dominant cultures, subcultures—should be included. For example, most literature discusses Syrians as Syrians, but there are so many different groups within the category of Syrian.

It is not only the diverse population, however. It is also the diverse responses from NGOs. You have Save the Children, UNHCR, and other international NGOs, as well as some other organizations specifically made for this crisis. ... Lesvos has been called the “Island of Solidarity,” and what made Lesvos the Island of Solidarity is not just local people but also all those individuals that have come from the United States, from Australia, from all over the world to help. Lesvos became a geographical territory where a new solidarity movement was created across Europe, and this was created by young people, middle-aged people, people from all nationalities, that boarded a plane to arrive to Lesvos in order to help, and they all found something to do. Then, at a certain point these groups of people working on certain things were obliged to create NGOs in order to stay on the island after the government decided to formally register them.

How do you teach the refugee crisis in your undergraduate courses?

During the Spring 2017 semester, I will teach a course entitled *International Development and Social Change: The Migration Crisis in Europe*. Because this course deals with international development, I decided to use the current refugee crisis in Europe and the refugee crisis around the world as a case study to elaborate theories of development, various actors and players and institutions, the role of the United Nations. During the second half of the semester I will divide the students into groups, and each group will take a media outlet such as *The Huffington Post*, *BBC News*, and *The New York Times*, and they will try to cover the years 2015, 2016, up to the time of the course. So, the students will create databases of media coverage of the crisis. We will also read two books [[Crossing the Sea with Syrians on the Exodus to Europe](#) (Bauer 2016); [The New Odyssey: The Story of Europe’s Refugee Crisis](#) (Kingsley 2016)] and scholarly articles that have been written on the crisis.

Sophia Koufopoulou is a fixed term faculty member in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University. Since 2003 Sophia has led the MSU “Contemporary Culture, Politics, and Society in Greece and Turkey” study abroad program through which over 600 MSU undergraduates have traveled, lived, and studied in Greece and Turkey. Since the early 2015 inflow of massive numbers of refugees into and through Greece from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, Sophia has carried out field work in refugee camps on the island of Lesvos, Greece, and worked with NGOs and international aid agencies on refugees’ humanitarian assistance and settlement programs. Since July 2015, she and her study abroad students have raised funds for *Syniparxi*, a member of the local NGO network “Village Altogether,” which provides blankets, water, food, and other vital supplies, as well as offers biweekly excursions for unaccompanied minors at the Moria Refugee Camp. To learn more about the fundraiser, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/greecerefugee2015>. Most recently, she has presented her findings for academic audiences and community groups in Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, and Italy. She can be reached at koufopou@msu.edu.

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