MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:
Andrew Jorgenson

Dear Section Members,

As I sit to write this letter, we are experiencing the season’s first snowstorm here in the Boston area, and it feels like the time has gone by so quickly since the annual ASA meetings this past summer in Philadelphia. I am honored to serve as section chair, and I have the privilege to work with an incredible group of development sociologists that serve on section council.

Our section is thriving. As of November 8, our section membership sits at slightly over 500. We have continued to grow every year in our relatively short existence, and this has happened while many other ASA sections have experienced declining memberships. This growth doesn’t surprise me in the slightest. Our section’s big tent mentality, and our shared sense of community, continue to attract new members, while keeping us “old timers” around. Our annual conference provides additional opportunities for greater participation, engagement and deep dive discussions about development-related topics. Our policy briefs, in the series “Sociological Insights for Development Policy,” are consistently well-written, timely and important. And while not formally tied to the section or to the ASA, the journal, *Sociology of Development*, which was the brainchild of some of our section’s founding members, is also thriving, due in large part to the high quality work that section members submit, and also to the consistently thoughtful and helpful manuscript reviews provided by section members.

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I’m especially proud of our student section members. I’m inspired by their scholarship, by their passion and enthusiasm, and by their desire to participate in section activities. For instance, back on October 4th, I sent out an email over the section listserv soliciting student members to volunteer to help organize the section’s roundtables for the 2019 annual meetings. Within an hour of hitting the send button, I had already received a dozen enthusiastic responses. The future of development sociology is bright, and certainly in good hands!

My primary objective while serving as chair this year is to work with council to keep our section’s positive trajectory and momentum going. We are committed to doing what we can to make our section a supportive and safe home for anyone and everyone. I would appreciate any suggestions for things we should consider to further improve our section, and especially to make it even more welcoming, comfortable and engaging.

In an effort to broaden and deepen our presence within the larger ASA community, and to hopefully attract even more section members – the next goal is 600, we will have a joint reception at the 2019 annual meetings with the Section on Global and Transnational Sociology, Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict, and the Section on Political Economy of the World-System. Given how expensive New York City can be, coupled with the challenges of finding a venue large enough for such a shared event, our joint reception will take place onsite this coming year.

Consistent with the practices of prior chairs, I solicited, via the section listserv, suggestions for topics for our section’s panels for the 2019 annual meetings. I received many excellent suggestions, and decided, with the support of council, on the following. One panel will focus on the theme of “New Directions in the Political Economy of Development,” while another panel will focus on the theme of “Development and Global Environmental Change: Challenges and Opportunities.” In the spirit of inclusivity, I decided that our section’s third panel will be open to all development-related topics (i.e., an open topics panel). To maximize the opportunities for section members to present their work, I plan to select five papers for each panel, and will not include discussants. I would like to remind section members that there are also regular sessions on Development and Development and Gender, so please also consider submitting your papers to those as well.

Take care,
Andrew Jorgenson
Boston College
https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/departments/sociology/people/faculty-directory/andrew-jorgenson.html

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**New Council Members**

**Karin Johnson, Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside**

I am a fifth year graduate student. My research looks at how economic diversification policy that invests in higher education changes the flows of skilled migration across the Global South. Specifically, I look at international student mobility to the United Arab Emirates, Russia, and South Africa since the year 2000. In December 2019 I depart for fieldwork and I will interview public officials, private sector organization representatives, and higher education administrators.

As the graduate student representative of the Development section, I look forward to working with Council members on policy briefs and the graduate student mentorship program.
Margaret Frye, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Michigan

Margaret (Maggie) Frye is a demographer and cultural sociologist. Her research is centered primarily on education in Sub-Saharan Africa. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods, she investigates the complex relationships between culture, ideas, and demographic patterns.

Maggie is currently in the midst of a longitudinal data collection project in Kampala, Uganda, following a cohort of university graduates as they enter adulthood, making decisions about work, family formation, and migration. The project examines changing understandings of status resulting from Uganda’s simultaneous expansion of university education and contraction of formal employment opportunities.

Other recent research uses cross-national data to examine the relationships between mass education, marriage, family formation, and the educational gender gap in Sub-Saharan Africa. This research was recently published in *Demography* and *Socius*. Past research has examined the intersections of education and sexual behavior in Malawi (published in the *American Sociological Review* and the *American Journal of Sociology*) and the cultural dynamics of Malawi’s generalized AIDS epidemic (published in *Population and Development Review* and *Sociological Science*).

Maggie is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Michigan. Before coming to Ann Arbor, she taught at Princeton University. She received her PhD in Demography and Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

On the council, Maggie hopes to encourage the participation and mentorship of younger development scholars, and to work with other council members to support the continued success of the section’s many initiatives. This year, she will chair the article award committee.

Joseph Harris, Assistant Professor, Boston University and Associate Editor, Social Science and Medicine

I conduct comparative historical research that lies at the intersection of sociology, political science, and global health. I am the author of *Achieving Access: Professional Movements and the Politics of Health Universalism* (Cornell University Press, 2017), which examines how and why resource-constrained countries (Thailand, Brazil, and South Africa) make expansive commitments to universal health coverage and AIDS treatment. I have authored or co-authored a number of articles related to universal health coverage and AIDS treatment in the industrializing world. My current research centers on two principal issues: the growing but uneven interest in global health by the social science disciplines and global health diplomacy as a window into efforts by peripheral nations to improve their position in global status hierarchies.

I have served as a consultant to UNDP and the World Bank (as Specialist on the Political Economy of Health Reform) and am the recipient of two Fulbright awards and the Henry Luce Scholarship. I hold a Master’s in Public Affairs from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and received my doctorate in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 2017, I was awarded the Gitner Award for Distinguished Teaching, the top teaching prize in Boston University’s College of Arts and Sciences. I currently serve as Associate Editor at *Social Science and Medicine*. 
As a new council member, I am looking forward to learning more about the work of the council and serving the Section in a variety of ways. I would like to contribute to ongoing efforts by the Council to expand the number of development jobs available to Development Sociologists and to expanding opportunities to present their work at the American Sociological Association meetings and other conferences. I am currently involved in planning two conferences on global health and development with a number of colleagues in the development section and other sections at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings and before ASA 2019. I have also volunteered to serve as Chair of the Student Article Award Committee in the Spring.

**Dr. Jennifer Y.J. Hsu, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, China Policy Institute, University of Nottingham**

I am a writer, scholar and researcher. My work is multidisciplinary. I am interested in the intersections of art, development studies, political science and sociology. Currently, I am exploring the politics of museum display and curating as it pertains to Chinese art objects. I am working collaboratively on two new research initiatives. The first involves examining of the role of government-organised NGOs (GONGO) in development. The second project examines the relationship between volunteerism and civic engagement in China.

I have published in various journals including *Journal of Contemporary China, Progress in Development Studies, The China Quarterly, Third World Quarterly and Urban Studies*. My recent monograph *State of Exchange: Migrant NGOs and the Chinese Government* presents a systematic examination of the different layers of the Chinese state and their engagement with migrant NGOs.

I am honoured to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for the Sociology of Development section (2018-2021). Having served as a Council member for the Section from 2013-2016, I was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of our Section members. In my capacity as Secretary-Treasurer, I hope to further facilitate that dynamism and vibrancy towards the initiatives we have planned. For example, to strengthen and institutionalize our mentoring initiatives, and to encourage the participation of junior members and members outside of North America to increase the diversity and inclusivity that is so much part of our Section.

When I first joined the Section, I was a recent graduate from outside of North America and trying to find a “home” for my research was a bit of a challenge; but fortunately, I came across the Sociology of Development Section at an ASA annual meeting. Hence, I look forward to working with our Council and Section members to generate new thinking and ideas to advance our Section to be even more inclusive.

**Jennifer Keahey, Assistant Professor, Arizona State University**

I am an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Arizona State University. My work unpacks the coloniality of power in relation to sustainable development and fair trade. Employing qualitative and participatory methods, I investigate the social forces shaping: (1) market standards and certifications; (2) producer livelihoods and capacities; and (3) the social relations of development research and practice.

I have worked as a development scholar, practitioner, and teacher in four world regions, and have conducted extended fieldwork in post-apartheid South Africa and post-Soviet Latvia. With dual focus on producer experiences with democratization and neoliberal globalization, these studies offer critical insight into the issues facing marginalized farming communities at a time of instability and change. To further this line of inquiry, I am embarking upon a comparative historical study of post-authoritarian perspectives on democracy and sustainable development.
My current research focuses on development ethics. By connecting an interdisciplinary discourse, I am delivering policy proposals for improving ethics in research and practice, including proposing a common set of principles for planning, conducting, and evaluating development research across disciplines.

The opportunity to lead Sociology of Development is a profound pleasure, in part because I value the Norm of Intellectual Diversity that comprises the heart of our Bylaws. In an increasingly polarized world, our Section represents a meaningful space for intellectual and intercultural connection.

As Chair, I will work to enhance this space in two key ways. First, I will encourage the formation of new Subsections that give visibility to underrepresented themes and groups. Second, I will investigate strategies to support members who wish to pursue collaborative research partnerships.

As was discussed during the closing activity of our 2018 annual conference, there is a need to design more sophisticated studies if we are to fully comprehend the obstacles of development. Collaborative partnerships represent an important strategy for engaging in the kind of multi-method research and multi-paradigmatic theory building that can generate new insight into old problems. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or ideas.

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### 2018 SOCIETY OF DEVELOPMENT SECTION PRIZE WINNERS

**2018 Sociology of Development Book Award**


China has recently emerged as one of Africa’s top business partners, aggressively pursuing its raw materials and establishing a mighty presence in the continent’s booming construction market. Among major foreign investors in Africa, China has stirred the most fear, hope, and controversy. For many, the specter of a Chinese neocolonial scramble is looming, while for others China is Africa’s best chance at economic renewal. Yet, global debates about China in Africa have been based more on rhetoric than on empirical evidence. Ching Kwan Lee’s The Specter of Global China is the first comparative ethnographic study that addresses the critical question: Is Chinese capital a different kind of capital?

Offering the clearest look yet at China’s state-driven investment in Africa, this book is rooted in six years of extensive fieldwork in copper mines and construction sites in Zambia, Africa’s copper giant. Lee shadowed Chinese, Indian, and South African managers in underground mines, interviewed Zambian miners and construction workers, and worked with Zambian officials. Distinguishing carefully between Chinese state capital and global private capital in terms of their business objectives, labor practices, managerial ethos, and political engagement with the Zambian state and society, she concludes that Chinese state investment presents unique potential and perils for African development. The Specter of Global China will be a must-read for anyone interested in the future of China, Africa, and capitalism worldwide.
https://www.dukeupress.edu/how-development-projects-persist

In How Development Projects Persist Erin Beck examines microfinance NGOs working in Guatemala and problematizes the accepted wisdom of how NGOs function. Drawing on twenty months of ethnographic fieldwork, she shows how development models and plans become entangled in the relationships among local actors in ways that alter what they are, how they are valued, and the conditions of their persistence. Beck focuses on two NGOs that use drastically different methods in working with poor rural women in Guatemala. She highlights how each program’s beneficiaries—diverse groups of savvy women—exercise their agency by creatively appropriating, resisting, and interpreting the lessons of the NGOs to match their personal needs. Beck uses this dynamic—in which the goals of the developers and women do not often overlap—to theorize development projects as social interactions in which policymakers, workers, and beneficiaries critically shape what happens on the ground. This book displaces the notion that development projects are top-down northern interventions into a passive global south by offering a provocative account of how local conditions, ongoing interactions, and even fundamental tensions inherent in development work allow such projects to persist, but in new and unexpected ways.

Committee: Rina Agarwala (Chair), Fauzia Ahmed, William J Haller, Diana Mincyte, Enrique Pumar.

2018 Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award


Within seemingly weak states, exceptionally effective subunits lie hidden. These high-performing niches exhibit organizational characteristics distinct from poor-performing peer organizations, but also distinct from high-functioning organizations in Western countries. This article develops the concept of interstitial bureaucracy to explain how and why unusually high-performing state organizations in developing countries invert canonical features of Weberian bureaucracy. Interstices are distinct-yet-embedded subsystems characterized by practices inconsistent with those of the dominant institution. This interstitial position poses particular challenges and requires unique solutions. Interstices cluster together scarce proto-bureaucratic resources to cultivate durable distinction from the status quo, while managing disruptions arising from interdependencies with the wider neopatrimonial field. I propose a framework for how bureaucratic interstices respond to those challenges, generalizing from organizational comparisons within the Ghanaian state and abbreviated historical comparison cases from the nineteenth-century United States, early-twentieth-century China, mid-twentieth-century Kenya, and early-twenty-first-century Nigeria.

Honorable Mention for the 2018 Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award

Why is neoliberalization experienced unevenly throughout the Islamic world? This article explores Islam-inspired Egyptian and Turkish organizations’ competing orientations to poverty relief. The study is based on interviews, direct observation, and comparative historical analysis. While there was a contested balance between neoliberal and communitarian orientations to charitable giving in Egypt, in Turkey neoliberal approaches marginalized communitarian ones. These differences can be traced back to a contrast in the combination of two factors: the religious movements and the links between benevolent organizations and the state. The relatively more unified Islamic field, which was thoroughly merged with the market-friendly state in Turkey, fostered the neoliberalization of charity. The fragmented Egyptian Islamic field, coupled with an unevenly cooperative (even if still market-friendly) state, led to the persistence of an embattled communitarianism. A field-based analysis allows us to extend the insights of the uneven diffusion literature to micro terrain.

Committee: Poulami Raychowdhury (chair), Maria Aksburin, Richard Lachmann, Michael Levien.

2018 Sociology of Development Graduate Student Paper Award

The winner and two runners up who were chosen purely on the basis of the caliber of excellence demonstrated in their work also happen to embody the pluralism that has been a core value of the section since its founding. They address three different theoretical bodies within development sociology; their cases geographically span Central America, South America, and Asia; they exhibit three different methodological traditions within development sociology: quantitative, comparative historical, and ethnographic work.

Herrera, Joel S, University of California, Los Angeles, “Cultivating Violence: Trade Liberalization, Labor Informality, and the Mexican Drug Trade.”

The committee unanimously and enthusiastically selected Joel’s paper because we found the paper "polished and impressive," with "refreshing novelty." The committee loved that Joel tackled a pressing social problem in the Sociology of Development while demonstrating an outstanding combination of methodological virtuosity and theoretical dexterity. His account engages historical and institutional development of the political economy with a thoughtful and detailed account of the twinning of politics and trade in Mexico. That historical attention is beautifully coupled with sophisticated methodology and rich data on 32 subnational entities, nicely mapping your argument geographically to visualize and strongly communicate the central points of your argument around the agricultural sector and drug trade. Committee members really appreciated the way he grounded the nature of his analysis by focusing on labor, rendering what are often macro-political forces concrete through a focus on the people who shape development trajectories.

The committee felt Joel's paper spoke compellingly to the literature, giving a clear and powerful argument to show why his thesis differed from the existing literature. The committee was particularly impressed that Joel engaged topics and theories in which there is voluminous prior scholarship—violence, drug trade, neoliberalism—and so pose an innate danger of retreading well-known ground, but instead the paper charted a really novel path fusing those fields in ways that felt fresh and innovative, particularly through engagement in a growing interest in sub-national variation.

Overall, a warm congratulations on an excellent piece of scholarship.
Honorable Mention for the 2018 Sociology of Development Graduate Student Paper Award


Alvin Camba was awarded an honorable mention for his paper “The Contentious Politics of Capital: The Political Economy of Chinese Investments in the Philippines.” Camba's paper demonstrated an excellent combination of deeply historicized knowledge of the politics of particular places, coupled with original data on over-time changes in quantitative trends of two areas of core interest in the sociology of development: Foreign Direct Investment and elite competition. The committee appreciated that Camba focused on China's rise as a new global investor. Camba gained excellent analytical leverage through maximizing within-case variation over time, contextualizing those economic trends with close accounting of changes in political developments in the two countries.

Fahlberg, Anjuli N, Northeastern University, “Activism under Fire: Urban Governance and Citizenship in Rio de Janeiro’s Conflict Zones.”

Anjuli Fahlberg was also awarded an honorable mention for her paper "Activism Under Fire: Governance and Citizenship in Rio de Janeiro's Conflict Zones." The committee felt Fahlberg's paper rendered an excellent account of the sometimes unexpected possibilities for grassroots mobilization for social and political change by multiply marginalized and disadvantaged citizens. Fahlberg's paper coupled fantastic ethnographic detail with a fusion of substantive research areas of longstanding interest to sociologists of development: violence, poverty, and social mobilization. The ethnographic detail in the paper's opening was a gripping way to immediately draw readers in to the fieldsite and illustrate the high stakes. Fahlberg also articulated a nice theoretical warrant for the novelty of her contribution.

Committee: Erin McDonnell (Chair), Yao Li, Laura Reynolds, Liam Smith.

THE STATE OF THE FIELD: ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

A half-century ago, an upsurge of interest in environmental issues spurred students of sociology in the Global South to ask about the impacts of economic development on the natural environment. At that point in time, a subfield focused on environment and development emerged in development sociology and in the related fields of anthropology, geography, and ecology. Since then, the focus of research on issues of environment and development has shifted in response to changes in the forces that have driven the environment-development nexus. In the following paragraphs, I outline these changes and related shifts in research interests that have, over the years, redefined the field of environment and development.

The first wave of published research on the environment-development nexus, during the 1970s and 1980s, reflected preoccupations about the impacts of rapidly expanding economies and societies on frontier forests in, until then, remote locations in South America, Central Africa, and insular Southeast Asia. During the 1960s and the 1970s, states had embarked on ambitious programs to build roads, construct port facilities, and create settlements for smallholders through ‘colonization programs’ in these regions (Hecht and Cockburn, 1990). While much of this scholarly work focused on the decimation of the forests, related analyses focused on the political dynamics that shaped the unequal access to natural resources in rural places, an approach that analysts
began to refer to as ‘political ecology’ (Blaikie and Brookfield, 1987).

The focus on political inequalities became more compelling in the post-millennial period when wealthy private investors and sovereign wealth funds accelerated their acquisition of large tracts of land in the humid tropics (Borras et al. 2012). Because these ‘land-grabbers’ sold the harvests from their lands in overseas markets, the land grabs denied poor rural peoples access to production from these lands and fostered food insecurities among them. The growing inequalities in access to resources extended to subterranean resources (Bebbington and Bury, 2013). Growing global demand for metals and fossil fuels spurred large corporations to search ‘to the ends of the earth’ for exploitable deposits of metals, oil, and gas. These investors invariably ignored the impacts of their operations on local indigenous peoples, so the new mines and wells created environmental injustices when they began to operate (Rudel, 2018).

These accentuated inequalities and associated neo-patrimonial political orders also shaped responses to natural disasters. A ‘disaster capitalism’ emerged (Klein, 2007). In emergencies, people with predatory tendencies took advantage of victims of the disasters, siphoning off post-disaster recovery funds and putting them to use for their own private purposes. The failure to make effective use of humanitarian assistance for new housing in the aftermath of the 2010 Port au Prince earthquake offers a recent example of disaster capitalism. The awarding of post-disaster contracts to inexperienced contractors in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017 offers another, more recent example of the frequently dysfunctional dynamic between environment and development in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Concerns about climate change have also spurred the emergence of a land change science that, like CHANS, links changes in the environment with development. The ability of reforesting landscapes to forestall climate change by sequestering carbon has spurred studies of forest cover change and theorizations about a global forest transition (Meyfroidt and Lambin, 2011) that link a resurgence in forests with the urbanization and industrialization of societies, beginning in the 19th century. The interaction between these long-term shifts in forest cover and the changing incidence of fire with climate change has opened up new areas of inquiry in the field.

Finally, concerns about climate change have problematized the sustainability of human societies and, in so doing, these concerns have reemphasized the foundational concerns of the environment and development field. Students have flocked to courses on sustainability, and faculty have expanded their offerings in sustainability and environmental studies across the curricula of many American colleges and universities. These new programs have opened up employment op-
opportunities for scholars with a focus on environment and development. The concern with sustainability has also led to a rethinking of issues of sustainable development (Sachs, 2015), and a newfound emphasis on the sustainable intensification of agriculture (Pretty, 2018).

Climate change has also opened up new fault lines between societies and raised new questions for environment and development sociologists. Recent increases in out-migration from arid, drought stricken portions of sub-Saharan Africa have underscored the dramatic differences in human welfare between people living in humid places and people living in drought stricken, climate change afflicted places. The growing numbers of environmental refugees (Bates, 2002) from arid places has raised new political ecological questions for sociologists who work at the interface of the environment and development.

References


Thomas K. Rudel is Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Human Ecology and Sociology at Rutgers University.
PLACE, SPACE, AND DEVELOPMENT

In this feature, we highlight different locations worldwide and invite scholars to reflect on how questions relating to “development” are shaped by the locations’ particular historical, geographic, and cultural contexts. For this issue, we focus on Puerto Rico before and after Hurricane Maria. In the first essay, Jacqueline Villarrubia-Mendoza and Roberto Vélez-Vélez offer a glimpse of the initiatives that have emerged in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. They describe how local grassroots initiatives known as Centros de Apoyo Mutuo (mutual support centers) have emerged to respond not only to government failure in the face of crisis, but also to empower local communities to build longer-term agendas for positive social transformation on the island. In the second essay, Mario Mercado-Díaz places the hurricane in historical and political context, as well as reflecting on activism by artist collectives and community organizations on the island and in the Puerto Rican diaspora.

If you have ideas for a place to highlight in the next issue, and/or an essay you’d like to submit, please contact the editors at socdevsectors@gmail.com.

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**Centros de Apoyo Mutuo, A Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Post-María Puerto Rico**

Hurricane María’s path through Puerto Rico on September 20th, 2017, along with the ongoing fiscal crisis, produced a situation of extreme precarity that was magnified by institutional failures. But, while Mr. Trump was accusing Puerto Ricans of waiting to have aid handed to them, a number of local grassroots initiatives known as Centros de Apoyo Mutuo (mutual support centers) emerged, quickly responding to the lack of an effective government response (Huyke-Villeneuve 2017). The objective of these organizations was not only to respond to the emergency but to foster the empowerment of those communities most affected by the hurricane and the socioeconomic precarity that impoverished communities throughout the Island have been facing during decades.

For the past year, we’ve followed six Centros de Apoyo Mutuo, interviewing 28 active members and participating in multiple meetings and activities in an effort to answer the following questions: What types of initiatives and projects have emerged in Puerto Rico post-María? How, if in any way, have these initiatives responded to the governmental failures in the aftermath of María? How do these organizations work and what are their goals and objectives? What do these organizations envision for their future and Puerto Rico’s?

Considering our field observations and interviews, we have identified three preliminary vectors: 1) communities’ interpretations of the post-María crisis, 2) identification of causes and sources of the crisis, and 3) proposed paths for solving the issues. What follows is a brief discussion of these vectors as preamble for a sociological approach to post-María community recovery response in Puerto Rico.

On the first vector, the core argument is that the humanitarian crisis that people are experiencing post-María preexisted the passing of the hurricane. Community organizers constantly challenge the erroneous surmising of the humanitarian crisis enveloping Puerto Rico as the result of the hurricane; the idea that the current humanitarian crisis is born from the natural disaster. Most organizers point out that the conditions of precariousness existed before the hurricane, either from austerity measures imposed by PROMESA, mismanagement or neglect from the state, a stagnant economy driven by foreign interests and incentives, and a mediocre policy development approach. But given the economic,
social and political precarity in the Island on the eve of the hurricane, these conditions were exacerbated within the new context of facing the damage caused by the hurricane. This view suggests that communities are well aware of the social and structural connections of their precariousness, and that they know how to differentiate between those issues born from the natural disaster and those born from institutional failure.

This view also frames the second aspect, which relates to the elements identified by the communities as sources of the crisis. What we are hearing from Centro de Apoyo Mutuo organizers and community members is that two of the major sources of institutional failures feeding the crisis are, 1) the prevailing disconnect between social policy, policy makers and implementing agencies, and communities; and 2) the resulting disempowerment of communities as assessors, proposers and developers of their own social policy. The common critique here is that the current model of addressing social needs assumes a top-down approach with little or no input from those at the receiving end of the policy. Community organizers point out that such an approach not only belittles the capacity of communities to identify their needs but also presumes that agencies know how to best serve them, generating an assistentialist relationship. For instance, the state assumes control over the political discussion of means and ways to solve inefficiencies within the department of education. The policy response to address the issue, most likely a blanket policy to be applied with little regard to the particularities of each community, such as closing schools. All this while removing any mechanisms for community input or engagement like public hearings or considering the impact on nearby communities. The long-term effect of this model is not only ineffective policies but also a systemic impoverishment of these communities. As one of our interviewees stated, “there are no poor communities, but impoverished communities. They are impoverished not because of their capacities or lack thereof, but because the ideas and policies are poor…” Here the impoverishing factor is more than a removal of resources but the disengagement of these communities as agents of their social situation.

The last aspect of this perspective addresses the issue of disempowerment that emerges from top-down models of development. As Centros de Apoyo Mutuo have defined their precariousness as an issue that preexisted the hurricane and the source, as one embedded in institutional failure and top-down models of development, they have engaged in social projects that focus on community empowerment, autogestión, and bottom-up development. Autogestión can be viewed as a set of tools that seek to develop a community’s capacity to assess and find solutions to their needs through collective actions framed in a model of solidarity, collaboration and volunteer work. Its ultimate goal is to reduce government dependency while abiding by principles of horizontality, participatory democracy and consensual decision-making (Colón 2003). They argue that the context of the hurricane produced a “removal of the veil” to the social realities and an “awakening” to the fragility of the institutional model of assistentialism. A community member in Bucarabones, Las Marias presented this by saying, “If we were to wait for the government to arrive, we would still be trapped here.” There was also an awakening towards the structural opportunity, the chance for rebuilding the community fabric under a new rubric; that of solidarity. The common principles in the proposal of solutions emerging from Centros de Apoyo Mutuo include: 1) “from within and from below” (meaning, community centered planning), 2) “agendas autogestionadas” (initiatives that are autonomous from state agencies/institutions), framed within a 3) horizontal, democratic participatory model centered on community engagement throughout the process.

Centros de Apoyo Mutuo have expanded their agendas, platforms and programs beyond the emergency stage to include projects such as land and food sovereignty, democratic education, cooperative housing projects, and community acupuncture clinics. Their beneficiaries include communities in rural-urban spaces, coastal-valley-mountain regions, farming and post-industrial areas. Hence, it’s our overall estimation that in the establishment of this mutual support network we might be witnessing the unfolding of a long-term process of deep social transformation.
Puerto Rico on the Map: Activism and Development Before and After Hurricane Maria

On September 22, 2017, Hurricane Maria left a lasting impression on Puerto Rican history, culture and society. “Everyone knew where Puerto Rico was now. We were on the map. For the worst reasons,” said Cecilia during an interview for my research on Puerto Ricans migrating to the United States. People at her day job approached her to inquire about her family’s wellbeing and to comment on the devastation on the Island. Many of my participants, including myself, underwent a similar experience of working through the trauma of Maria’s aftermath, while having to answer questions about Puerto Rican history, society, and culture. But like Cecilia, many felt frustrated that it took a natural disaster to put the Island “on the map.”

Puerto Rico’s present situation is a result of a long history of colonialism and unfettered capitalism. Until the day before Maria, Puerto Ricans were protesting the gutting of social services and retirement funds, while half a million islanders had already been displaced by the economic crisis (Birson, 2014). So I ask: What and where is the crisis? Are we just in a perpetual “state of emergency”? What are the possibilities of development under these circumstances? Hurricane Maria was just another crisis in a long chain of crises that once again put our networks of solidarity and activism to the test. In this essay, I place the current socioeconomic state of PR in a larger historical context to highlight how Puerto Ricans on the Island and in the Diaspora have been engaged in activism and alternative development well before Maria. Drawing on past and present research, I share how artists and entrepreneurs have been working to preserve a quality of life on the Island while attempting to nurture economic and cultural growth.

The relationship between development, crisis, and migration is evidence of the larger colonial forces that consolidated Puerto Rico. Throughout Puerto Rican history, the federal and commonwealth governments have welcomed the entrance of foreign capital under the guise of incentivizing economic development to prevent or solve a crisis. Both governments instituted tax exemptions that made it profitable for companies—such as in manufacturing, petrochemical or pharmaceutical sectors—to come to Puerto Rico while promising that the trickle-down effects would benefit the populace. However, this left the wellbeing of the people in the hands of business owners who heavily influenced policy-making and controlled the labor market (Fusté, 2017; Grosfoguel, 2003). Likewise, the out-migration of Puerto Ricans was state-sponsored in order to lower poverty rates and facilitate labor market integration. More recently, the Fiscal Oversight and Management Board was created by the PROMESA bill to force the PR government to pay its debt (Valentín Ortiz, 2018). The FOMB is evidence of the neocolonial relationship between the US and PR, and follows a century of policies that have pushed Puerto Rico into debt and dependency.

In 2014, I was in Puerto Rico doing research and paying close attention to the conversations regarding the state of abandonment of inner-city areas and the actions of communities to “retake” or “renew” these areas. For example, residents of Areci-
bo, many of whom were fishermen, merchants and local business-owners, blamed the US corporations for running them out of business and remarked that the local government was unable or unwilling to protect their livelihoods (Mercado-Diaz, 2015). The townspeople were betting on a strategy that seemed to be working for marginalized communities in San Juan. Murals and artistic installations in the boroughs of Río Piedras and Santurce were attracting crowds and investment at a time when the local government did not seem interested in the improvement of infrastructure or the support of local business. Artist collectives and community groups used urban art to beautify public spaces and stimulate economic activity. Meanwhile, artistic installations conveyed critiques of social problems, such as domestic violence and sexual harassment, government corruption, colonialism and social inequality. My work continued to explore these methods of development in order to investigate if art was an efficient tool for neighborhood improvement or if art was being used for expropriation and gentrification.

Between the Debt Crisis of 2015 and Hurricanes Irma and Maria, community organizing had become more palpable and visible, in the Island and abroad. Groups like the Campground Against the Fiscal Board, the Feminist Collective At Work, and Casa Pueblo benefitted from a surge of supporters seeking to protest the current federal and state administration. Meanwhile, members of these and other groups were in conversation with organizers and activists in the diaspora and were exchanging ideas and strategies of community organizing and development. Shortly after Maria, groups like Defend Puerto Rico, comprised of artists and activists, started to hold events in NYC to gather funds and materials for reconstruction efforts in PR, for example teaching youth the power of digital storytelling or helping people in Comerio rebuild their homes. These and other events gather people to speak about their experiences in organizing and their current and future projects. Many of these conversations focus on long-standing efforts to ensure energy and food independence, improve social services, develop land trusts and promote land ownership among Islanders, and promote local products.

During my fieldwork, I spoke to Puerto Ricans living in Houston—some of whom had witnessed Irma, Harvey and Maria—and heard about their experiences in organizing in their neighborhoods to help each other and those on the Island. “I wanna die with my boots on” said Ivette in NYC, who is determined to go back permanently to PR to retake institutional spaces of cultural production. Like her, artists and cultural agents depend on these migratory circuits for work and for maintaining a sense of membership in community and activist groups. For many, Hurricane Maria was something we had long...
been expecting: a disaster that would expose the great faults of the local government and economy, and that would evidence the federal government’s inattentiveness to local affairs. Likewise, the hurricanes also highlighted the vitality of the broad diasporic networks that are in continuous conversation and are engineering ways to develop within the confines of Puerto Rico’s neocolonial status.

References


Mario Mercado-Díaz is a doctoral student in Sociology at Rutgers University.

REPORT FROM THE 7TH ANNUAL SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

“Obstacles to Development”

19-21 October, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

The University of Illinois was very pleased to host the 7th Annual Sociology of Development Conference, “Obstacles to Development,” in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois this past October. More than 60 scholars from institutions in seven countries gave research presentations. Things got started Friday evening with a keynote lecture from J. Craig Jenkins (Ohio State), who spoke about his ongoing research on the challenges of climate change and community adaptation in coastal Bangladesh.

Recognizing that many of this year's participants may be unfamiliar with the University of Illinois, other than it is located somewhere in flyover territory, we were eager to highlight two core strengths of this land grant university: engineering and agriculture. To that end, we were very pleased to hold a lunch-time plenary with two prominent scholars - Tami Bond (Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Paul McNamara (Agricultural and Consumer Economics) - who talked about their considerable experience with development and some of the core obstacles that they have confronted in doing their work.
Rather than have an evening plenary with one established scholar, we sought to mix things up this year by having three junior members of our section present their work: Laura Doering (Toronto), Maggie Frye (Michigan), and Terry McDonnell (Notre Dame). It was truly a pleasure to hear about some of the innovative and thought-provoking work being done in our section.

As Jeffrey Kentor noted in his summary of last year’s conference at Wayne State University, organizing this event on behalf of our section was a lot of work and costly. All told, it cost about $20,000 to implement. We had originally contemplated charging a registration fee, but in the end decided that we did not wish to disincentivize participation, particularly among graduate students. In retrospect, charging a registration for faculty would have provided us with the means to offer scholarships to graduate students and scholars traveling from the global South.

We could not have done it without the assistance and material support of a number of people. Many thanks to Dean Feng Sheng Hu, Executive Associate Dean David Tewksbury, and Brad Peterson of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Shari Day from Sociology, and Scott Randall from the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. Many thanks to Sam Cohn for leading a stimulating conversation and the concluding lunch on Sunday. Last but not least, I want to thank the graduate students from the Department of Sociology that helped the conference to proceed smoothly: Kathy Copas, Heba Khalil, Quinn O'Dowd, Brian O'Neill, Matt Schneider, and Po-Chia Tseng.

I would also like to thank our co-sponsors for making this event both possible and successful, including, from the University of Illinois: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Office of International Programs in the College of ACS, Russian, East European and Eurasian Center, Women and Gender in a Global Perspectives Program. I want to express my gratitude to the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the University of Notre Dame for their support of Saturday's plenary and reception.

I conclude by thanking all of those who took the time to attend this year's conference. It was a pleasure to meet so many members of our section and to hear about the fantastic research being undertaken by development sociologists. I am looking forward to seeing you next year at the University of Notre Dame.

Brian Dill
Interim Head
Department of Sociology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 junior scholar to become involved with the section and network with other individuals in our subfield. The newsletter is published semi-annually (in the fall and spring semesters) and includes Council and section news, feature stories, calls for papers and other opportunities in the field, and the section’s official reports. Sectors is e-mailed to all current section members through the listserv and posted on the section’s website.

The co-editor will have a two-year term from August 2019 to July 2021. During the first year (2019-2020), the new editor will work in a team with one of the current co-editors. During the second year (2020-2021), they will continue working with a new co-editor selected in 2020. Both co-editors will work collaboratively to shape the content and formatting of the newsletter. They will seek out and develop original content for the newsletter and maintain regular features.

The Section Council will select the co-editor from all interested parties, and the co-editor will report to the Council regularly (during council meetings). The co-editor will work closely with the Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Section.

Qualifications:
- Member of the Sociology of Development Section;
- Strong organizational skills, including ability to meet deadlines;
- Strong written communication skills;
- Strong MS Word and Acrobat Reader skills
- Graduate students are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Application consists of:
- a one-page statement of interest, qualifications, and ideas for the newsletter
- a one-page CV

Please submit applications to: socdevsectors@gmail.com by December 31, 2018. Applicants will hear back by the end of the Spring 2019 term.

Call for Applications – Webmaster

We are looking for a new webmaster for the section. It is a great way to get involved in the section and is a three-year appointment lasting until 2021. If you are interested, you will be fully trained. Please contact the current webmaster, Molly Cook (mmcook008@gmail.com) and Secretary-Treasurer, Jennifer Hsu (jenniferhsu@cantab.net) if you are interested! Deadline for application is December 31, 2018.

Here are some details about the position. Duties tend to take no more than one hour per week.
- It is a three-year appointed position. If you take on the role, you would be expected to serve from 2018-2021.
- Your name and professional email would be listed on ASA as an authorized Section Webpage Editor, and on our Section Website as the person to contact with requested updates.
- You will manage all aspects of the website, which is hosted on the WordPress platform.
- You will also manage the Section's Facebook and Twitter account, which is integrated with WordPress.
- You do not need to know coding to navigate Wordpress. It is fairly user friendly, but there will be a minor learning curve. The new webmaster will be provided with a document that outlines key responsibilities and basic functions and assists with the transition by answering questions as you become familiarized with the system.
- We may be expanding website functions in the next year or two, but in cases where significant labor may be required (i.e., major updates to Section resources), we would seek volunteers to compile information for you to upload. You would not be expected to compile the resources yourself.
- Finally, it is critical that website information is professional, accurate, and meets ASA standards. For example, listserv announcements are posted on the front-page website blog, but no job announcements are posted as that would violate ASA policy.

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**Call for 2019 ASA Section Session Submissions**

Submission Deadline: January 9, 2019, 11:59 PM EST

1. **Development and Global Environmental Change: Challenges and Opportunities.**
   
   *Session Organizer: Andrew Jorgenson, jorgenan@bc.edu*

2. **New Directions in the Political Economy of Development.**
   
   *Session Organizer: Andrew Jorgenson, jorgenan@bc.edu*

3. **Open Topic on Sociology of Development.**
   
   *Session Organizer: Andrew Jorgenson, jorgenan@bc.edu*

4. **Section on Sociology of Development Refereed Roundtables (one-hour).**
   
   *Session Organizer: Andrew Jorgenson, jorgenan@bc.edu*

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

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**Call for Proposals to Host the 2020 Sociology of Development’s Annual Conference**

Submission Deadline: December 31, 2018

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 Jennifer Hsu (jenniferhsu@cantab.net):

a. Leadership
b. Dates
c. Location and venue: Description of facilities and interesting development-related aspects of the location
d. Sponsoring organization(s)
e. Theme and format
f. Resources (please indicate which, if any, are secured at this time): organizational; facilities; financial

Please contact Jennifer Hsu, secretary-treasurer, with any questions: jenniferhsu@cantab.net.

New 2018 Section Publications

**Sociology of Development Journal** ([http://socdev.ucpress.edu/](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

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- **Disparities in Development**
  Jeffrey Kentor, Andrew Jorgenson (pp. 237-238) DOI: 10.1525/sod.2018.4.3.237

- **The Development of Labor under Contemporary Capitalism**
  Rina Agarwala (pp. 239-260) DOI: 10.1525/sod.2018.4.3.239

- **What is Really Happening with Global Inequality?**
  Arthur S Alderson, Roshan K Pandian (pp. 261-281) DOI: 10.1525/sod.2018.4.3.261

- **Inequality, Decisions, and Altruism**
  Thomas Dietz, Cameron T Whitley (pp. 282-303) DOI: 10.1525/sod.2018.4.3.282

- **Development and Gender-Linked Economic Inequality in the Era of Globalization**
  Moshe Semyonov (pp. 304-324) DOI: 10.1525/sod.2018.4.3.304

**Sociology of Development Policy Briefs**

The Sociology of Development Section of ASA invites contributions to its Policy Briefs series on Sociological Insights for Development Policy. The Briefs consist of short, easily understandable summaries of published sociological research that is relevant to the design and implementation of development policy.

The ultimate goal is to disseminate these briefs to more than the Sociology of Development or even larger ASA community. We would like to reach the world of actual policy making to influence and equip this world to seriously consider sociological insights on the determinants and effectiveness of and constraints on pragmatic policy.

We seek contributions from established researchers in Development Sociology as well as from beginners, and especially from graduate students interested in the real world significance of sociological
Newest Policy Brief:


The certification revolution has led to a growing array of market-based sustainability approaches that range from independently audited labels such as Fairtrade and organics to internally monitored commercial brands that claim corporate commitment. While product labels are making the economic case for sustainable development, the strategy of transforming global trade practices from within has given rise to contradictory outcomes. My research with rooibos tea farmers in post-apartheid South Africa demonstrates the need for market-based sustainability movements to strengthen their commitment to social responsibility by reducing certification costs, strengthening producer support services, and working with industries to democratize market planning and governance.

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**NEW MEMBER PUBLICATIONS**

**New Books**


This book provides a structural and historical economic sociology perspective on the contemporary global economy.

Over the past half century, globalization has transformed how nations, firms, and workers compete in the international economy. The chapters in this book, authored by one of the founders of the global value chains (GVC) approach, trace the emergence of the most influential paradigm used to analyze globalization and its impact by academics and policy makers alike. The GVC framework is built around the twin pillars of ‘governance’ (how global supply chains are controlled and organized) and ‘upgrading’ (how countries and firms try to create, capture, and retain high-value niches in GVCs). This book contains the seminal writings used to launch the GVC framework, along with in-depth case studies that explain how Mexico, China, and other countries emerged as prominent exporters in the world economy. As the social dimension of globalization became more pronounced, Gereffi and colleagues elaborated the concept of ‘social upgrading’ and a new paradigm of ‘synergistic governance’ based on the coordinated efforts of private, civil society, and public-sector actors.

During the 2000s, the rise of large emerging economies like China, India, Brazil, and South Africa transformed the structure and dynamics of GVCs in the direction of greater regionalization. Today new challenges are looming in resurgent economic nationalism and populism. Large international organizations such as the WTO, World Bank, and ILO, policymakers in national economies, development practitioners, and academics continue to be guided by insights from the GVC approach.

Gross social inequalities, persistent economic decline, and political rule by moneyed plutocracy create a crisis of human existence. The upper echelons of capital, led by the financiers, impose degenerative development, instill their class privileged ideology in the populace, subject agencies of state to their agenda, pursue a divide and conquer strategy for the stratified population, promote the interests of capital and neoliberal policy on a global scale, and exercise unchecked repression and war. The book explores a counter-hegemony to the rule of capital. The first chapters of the book explore the political economy of finance capital, secular stagnation, and chronic crisis and its consequences for the populations of the United States and worldwide. Sociological analysis focuses on the restructuring of social class relations, workers are being increasingly subordinated, vast populations are being pushed into an immiserated underclass, and the middle class is losing its privileges. Capital rules in part by divide and conquer, the creation of social-cultural divisions by race and ethnicity, gender, and social stratifications of privilege and deprivation. Capital imposes its ideology of Social Darwinism, generalized fear in the culture, its notions of American Exceptionalism. Plutocracy reigns in the political sphere, molds a privatized State of National Insecurity, wages war, searches for total hegemony. Together the inexorable workings of political economy and plutocratic rule result in gross inequalities and injustices. These are the structural forces shaping an American Dystopia, generalized worldwide, that are being and will continue to be resisted by victims, as active subjects of change in a search for counter-hegemony.


With globalization discourse as the centerpiece, the thirty-two original articles in Women of Asia: Globalization, Development and Gender Equity offer insights for understanding this transformative process in contexts that may serve to benefit or to increase risks for women. This transformation has permeated every social institution throughout Asia and is associated with profound changes for women, whether they reside in Asia’s developed or developing regions. Capitalizing on our professional and personal networks and the array of available sources on gender issues in Asia, we located authors engaged in research directly related to the anthology’s thematic emphases, and particularly to the excellent scholarship emerging from this research. This work provided the foundation on which they submitted their chapters.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/oral-democracy/1389E93F8F69AA1AB07B434124CE7582

Oral Democracy studies citizens’ voices in civic and political deliberations in India’s gram sabhas (village assemblies), the largest deliberative institution in human history. It analyzes nearly 300 transcripts of gram sabhas, sampled within the framework of a natural experiment, allowing the authors to study how state policy affects the quality of discourse, citizens’ discursive performances, and state enactments embodied by elected leaders and public officials. By drawing out the varieties of speech apparent in citizen and state interactions, their analysis shows that citizens’ oral participation in development and governance can be improved by strengthening deliberative spaces through policy. Even in conditions of high inequality and illiteracy, gram sabhas can create discursive equality by developing the “oral competence” of citizens and establishing a space in which they can articulate their interests. The authors develop the concept of “oral democracy” to aid the understanding of deliberative systems in non-Western and developing countries. This title is also available as Open Access.


This book describes community ophthalmology professionals in South Asia who demonstrate social entrepreneurship in global health to help the rural poor. Their innovations contested economic and scientific norms, and spread from India and Nepal outwards to other countries in Africa and Asia, as well as the United States, Australia, and Finland. This feminist postcolonial global ethnography illustrates how these innovations have resulted in dual socio-technical systems to solve the problem of avoidable blindness. Policymakers and activists might use this example of how to avoid Schumacher’s critique of low labor, large scale and implement Gandhi’s philosophy of good for all.

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**New Articles and Book Chapters**


A growing body of scholarship acknowledges the increasing influence of global forces on social institutions and societies on multiple scales. We focus here on the role of globalization processes in shaping collective action and social movements. Three areas of global change and movements are examined: first, long-term global trends and collective action; second, research on national and local challenges to economic globalization, including backlash movements and the types of economic liberalization measures most associated with inducing oppositional movements; and third, the emergence of contemporary transnational social movements. In each of these arenas we address debates on diffusion, intervening mechanisms, and the outcomes of collective mobilization in response to global pressures.

Since 1980, the number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in developing countries has exploded. Published research on NGOs has paralleled this growth, yet there exists scant synthesis of the literature. This article presents a synthesis, while also introducing a collaborative research platform, the NGO Knowledge Collective. We ask four questions: first, who studies NGOs, and how do they study them? Second, what issues, sectors and places are studied when NGOs are the focus? Third, what effect do NGO activities have on specific development outcomes? And fourth, what path should the NGO research agenda take? To answer these questions, we conduct a mixed-method systematic review of social science publications on NGOs, which includes computer-assisted content analysis of 3336 English-language journal articles (1980–2014), alongside a close, qualitative analysis of 300 randomly selected articles. We find, first, that interdisciplinary journals dominate NGO publishing, that research on NGOs is more qualitative than quantitative, and that practitioners publish, but Northern academics create most published knowledge. Second, we find the literature is framed around six overarching questions regarding: the nature of NGOs; their emergence and development; how they conduct their work; their impacts; how they relate to other actors; and how they contribute to the (re)production of cultural dynamics. Articles also focus disproportionately on the most populated and/or politically salient countries, and on the governance and health sectors. Third, we find that scholars generally report favorable effects of NGOs on health and governance outcomes. Fourth, we propose a research agenda calling for scholars to: address neglected sectors, geographies, and contextual conditions; increase author representativeness; improve research designs to include counterfactuals or comparison groups; and better share data and findings, including results from additional, focused NGO-related systematic reviews. Implementing this agenda will help reduce bias in decisions by donors, governments, and other development actors, which should improve development outcomes.


Motivation: Over the past two decades, Cambodia has experienced an unprecedented credit boom, a growth in lending so rapid that the IMF referred to it as “one of the fastest financial deepening episodes by historical cross-cultural standards” (IMF, 2016, p. 4). This deepening has been driven by the expansion of microcredit. In tandem, overindebtedness has increased among microcredit borrowers, and debt has become a significant political and economic concern. *Purpose:* This paper explores how overindebtedness is understood and explained by stakeholders across microcredit value chains. *Approach and methods:* To do so, we draw on interviews in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh with MFI executives, investors, branch managers, partners, financial literacy trainers, loan officers, and borrowers. *Findings:* We find that across the sector, dominant framings of overindebtedness privilege borrower-centric explanations, while discounting the structural drivers of excessive lending and borrowing. *Policy implications:* As a consequence, current efforts to limit overindebtedness are unlikely to produce the kinds of solutions most needed to reduce debt-stress among borrowers. These arguments have implications across the Global South, particularly for contexts where microfinance is rapidly expanding.


This study tests the claim that police legitimacy affects the prevalence of homicide. Using a cross-national time series dataset of 100 countries, I conduct a statistical analysis of the association between the extent to which the public perceives the police as legitimate and the homicide rate. The analysis suggests that police legitimacy has a substantial, negative association with homicide rates, consistent across different sources of homicide data and controlling for a variety of economic, political and demographic variables. The paper provides evidence that police legitimacy is related to violent behavior, and that this relationship is generalizable across a wide range of contexts, but more pronounced in non-high-income and comparatively unequal countries.

The “elitist approach” to democratization contends that “democratic regimes that last have seldom, if ever, been instituted by mass popular actors” (Huntington 1984:212). This article subjects this observation to empirical scrutiny using statistical analyses of new democracies over the past half-century and a case study. Contrary to the elitist approach, I argue that new democracies growing out of mass mobilization are more likely to survive than are new democracies that were born amid quiescence. Survival analysis of 112 young democracies in 80 different countries based on original data shows that the longer the mobilization, the more likely the ensuing democracy is to survive. I use a case study of South Africa to investigate the mechanisms. I argue that sustained unarmed uprisings have generated the longest-lasting new democracies—largely because they are forced to develop an organizational structure, which provides a leadership cadre for the new regime, forges links between the government and society, and strengthens checks on the power of the post-transition government.


The literature on civil resistance finds that nonviolent campaigns are more likely to succeed than violent insurgencies. A parallel literature on democratization poses mass mobilization as exogenous to political liberalization. Contributing to both literatures, we propose the category of unarmed collective violence to capture an empirically recurring form of unruly collective action used by civilians and then use a mixed methods research design to examine its impact on democratization. An event history analysis finds that riots are positively associated with political liberalization in 103 nondemocracies from 1990 to 2004. Attacks by civilians on police stations during the January 25 Egyptian Revolution illustrate one way in which unarmed collective violence can bring about a democratic breakthrough. A qualitative examination of all 80 democratic transitions held between 1980 and 2010 also reveals the salience of unarmed collective violence by civilian forces. These findings contribute to research on the dynamics of contentious democratization and suggest that remaining unarmed may be more consequential for a democracy campaign than adhering to nonviolence.


This article employs gendered livelihoods analysis and participatory methods to examine the politics of development among small-scale rooibos tea farmers in a rural coloured area of southwestern South Africa. Differentiating between sources of conflict and cohesion, I discuss how communities navigated resource scarcity, unstable markets, and shifting relations. While patriarchal dynamics informed livelihoods, with males and elders enjoying greater access than females and young adults, women took advantage of relatively fluid female roles to enter into agriculture and commerce. In contrast, rigid male roles and unattainable expectations of manhood isolated men, engendering destructive behaviors among young men in particular. Communities maintained social cohesion through democratic arrangements, and a politics of identification enabled research participants to relate to differential interests. In addition to providing situated and relational insight into the identitarian aspects of rural development, participatory gendered livelihoods analysis offers a critical means for deconstructing power and decolonizing knowledge.


Analyzing resource extractivism as a gendered structure is important for understanding the complex social processes that create and perpetuate environmental injustice—both social inequality and environmental degradation—and for visualizing gendered resistances and opportunities for transformation. Applying Risman’s approach to Argentina’s soy model, six causal mechanisms at the institutional, individual, and interactional levels can be identified that serve either to maintain or to challenge the status quo: (1) resource distribution, (2) ideology, (3) identity work, (4) cognitive bias, (5) status expectations, and (6) state paternalism.


A foundational theory in environmental sociology, Allan Schnaiberg’s treadmill of production theory (1980), and subsequent elaborations of the treadmill of production theory, is best known and used to explain how societies have created environmental and social disruptions. Less well known and less utilized aspects of the original theory include...
proposed strategies to slow the treadmill of production, with the goals of decreasing withdrawals and additions, and increasing social justice. This paper revisits Schnaiberg’s original conceptualization of the treadmill of production theory to: (1) highlight and reinvigorate these underutilized portions of the theory, (2) apply the theory’s social change model to explain the case of Ecuador’s changing development trajectory from the 1970s to 2017, and (3) develop an aspect of the theory that was not in Schnaiberg’s original conceptualization; namely, how pressure from the global political economy affects states’ choices, and ultimately, their choices about social-environmental development trajectories. The broader goal of the paper is to contribute to public environmental sociologists’ quest to understand the conditions and the actions that offer the most promise for solving the intertwined social-environmental problems in a globalized political economy.


In scholarly and popular literatures alike, there is increasing frustration with democracies’ ineffectual response to environmental challenges. Thus, authoritarian environmentalism has been speculated as a viable alternative. This article empirically studies the case of China, because it is hypothesized to be a likely candidate for an authoritarian environmentalist success. Using ethnographic evidence drawn from three purposefully-selected most-likely cases of environmental governance success in China, this article argues that Chinese state bureaucracies practice a distinct kind of environmentalism; an environmental challenge has to be translated into quantifiable targets and, at the same time, be fitted squarely into the fragmented organization of the government before state intervention is possible. The current analysis provides an evidence-based rebuttal to the authoritarian environmentalism hypothesis, and challenges environmental sociologists to closely examine enabling conditions for effective governance in the Anthropocene.


This paper examines how intersectional inequalities can facilitate the extraction of surplus value from agriculture. Through an ethnographic case study of the Burkina Faso cotton sector, I describe a ‘chain of exploitation’ wherein actors pass economic pressures on to less-powerful actors. People resist their own exploitation, yet justify exploiting others through discourses about intersectional inequalities – overlapping axes of social difference including class, gender, rural/urban status, and education level. I thus argue that intersectional social inequalities – exacerbated by economic pressures – can: (1) justify and thus facilitate the transfer of exploitation, and (2) fragment resistance efforts.


Evidence suggests that some black residents in South Africa experience nostalgia for the racist and authoritarian apartheid regime. What dynamics generate apartheid nostalgia, and what work does it do? This article draws on in-depth interviews with black residents of impoverished urban townships and informal settlements. I argue that by eliminating formal racial discrimination and redirecting popular aspirations towards the state, South Africa’s democratic transition encouraged apartheid nostalgia, which residents deployed to criticize the post-apartheid state and imagine alternative possibilities. Far from uniform, nostalgic expressions focused on four objects: social protection, migrant exclusion, bureaucratic integrity, and white governance. Each object represented an aspect of the apartheid state that residents sought to resurrect. The analysis calls for a shift from a politics of regret, focused on shame for past atrocities, to a politics of nostalgia, which understands idealized projections of past objects as a terrain of struggle.


Declining electoral support for South Africa’s ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC), suggests a potential weakening of the anti-apartheid nationalism that defined the immediate post-apartheid period. Using two surveys of voters in primarily poor and working-class black areas, conducted during the 2014 (national) and 2016 (local) elections, as well as three case studies of protest by workers, poor communities and students, this article examines the
social cleavages and political dynamics that underpinned deepening political competition. Results show that voting decisions varied according to gender, age, ethnicity and receipt of welfare benefits. Different public provisions mattered most during national versus local elections, demonstrating that voters paid close attention to government operations. Underscoring political fluidity, some instances of protest reinforced ANC dominance while others fed into support for the opposition. The findings challenge notions of uncontested one party dominance, revealing instead that some poor black voters are critically evaluating the ANC’s performance and developing oppositional political identities.


Since the last quarter of the twentieth century, cities in the Global South have seen extraordinary growth, with China and India as the epicenters of urbanization. This essay critically assesses the state of the field of global urban studies and focuses particularly on the scholarship relating to urban China and India. The essay identifies three dominant paradigms in the scholarship: the global city thesis, neoliberalism, and postcolonialism. In contrast to US urban sociology, which is often preoccupied with the question of how neighborhood effects reproduce inequality, global urban studies account for a much wider array of urban processes, such as global urban networks, social polarization, and the transformation of the built environment. This essay points out the disconnect between US urban sociology and global urban studies and proposes a comparative approach as a way to bridge the divide.


Reyes, Victoria. "Ethnographic Toolkit: Strategic positionality and researchers’ visible and invisible tools in field research" Ethnography online first, October 25, 2018 https://doi.org/10.1077/1466181118805121

For many, reflexivity is a core tenet in qualitative research. Often, scholars focus on how one or two of their sociodemographic traits compare to their participants and how it may influence field dynamics. Research that incorporates an intersectionality perspective, which brings attention to how people’s multiple identities are entwined, also has a long history. Yet, researchers tend to pay less attention to how we strategically draw on our multiple social positions in the course of field work. Drawing on data I have collected over the past several years and extending recent sociological work that goes beyond a reflexive accounting of one or two of researchers’ demographic characteristics, I argue that each researcher has their own ethnographic toolkit from which they strategically draw. It consists of researchers’ visible (e.g. race/ethnicity) and invisible tools (e.g. social capital) and ties qualitative methodologies to research on how culture is strategically and inconsistently used.


China’s recent collective forest tenure reform is intended to clarify and certify forest rights, and thereby promote market circulation of forestland, encourage forestry production and safeguard conservation. Central policy statements prioritize parcelling tenure among households to promote efficient management. This study examines how participants experienced the programme in communities in north-west Yunnan. In the study area, rather than individualizing
tenure, forestry agencies compelled communities to re-collectivize forests. Nonetheless, residents persist in using household forests despite restrictions. Local officials tacitly sanction these activities. In mountain hinterlands, forest tenure reform has been focused on “stabilizing” forests and communities. Rather than forcibly impose tenure designs, authorities perform what we call accommodative buffering. A set of formal institutions, rules and mappings enables projects like forest ecological compensation payments to go forward. However, state agents at local and higher levels tolerate informal practices that contain the trouble that poorly fitted formal institutions might cause. While potentially more resilient than by-the-book enforcement, these arrangements could leave residents vulnerable to political shifts that require a demonstration of policy adherence.

MEMBER NEWS
Promotions, Awards, and Moves

Rebekah Burroway received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor at Stony Brook University.

Jessie Luna defended her dissertation at the University of Colorado Boulder: “Capitalism, Culture, and Cotton: New Agricultural Technologies in Burkina Faso.” She started this fall as an assistant professor at Colorado State University.

Laura T. Raynolds, Colorado State University, received the Rural Sociological Society Excellence in Research Award for her contributions to advancing our understanding of global commodity networks, private governance institutions, and alternative food production and consumption. She was honored at the 2018 RSS conference in Portland, Oregon.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD
The Politics of Ethnographic Empathy and Representation

When I began my dissertation research, I was concerned with understanding how gender and caste mapped onto children’s experiences of paid and unpaid work across family and non-family settings. Delhi’s informal economy was my research context, and my comparative design was inspired by debates about India’s 2016 Child Labor Amendment Act. However, as is the case with most qualitative work, my project evolved in unanticipated ways, developing into a multi-year ethnography concerned also with broader questions about state violence, structural dislocation, unequal citizenship, and precarity.

While conducting my research, I have reflected on the controversies surrounding misrepresentation, essentialization and even the exploitation of human suffering in ethnographic studies of urban poverty (Small 2015). In thinking about representation in my own research, I struggle with how best to fulfill my responsibility to write without exoticizing those living in extreme poverty, and without inadvertently sensationalizing violence and the frequency of childhood deaths I have encountered. Having witnessed informants’ vulnerabilities, I also caution myself against romanticizing their realities (Parvez 2018). It is challenging to balance this with the equally salient responsibility to narrate these stories with all their contradictions. These are not narratives about victimization. Despite dislocation and dispossession, the children and adults I have come to know negotiate their vulnerabilities in powerful ways. They do so with perceptible humanity, even in the face of considerable loss.

To highlight this, I draw from Parvez’s (2018) argument about ‘revelatory moments,’ whereby emotional intimacy is established between the informant and researcher, often as a result of informants’ vulnerability. I describe two related moments in my research where my own vulnerability might also contributed to producing intimacy. During one of my last interviews, I was
asked to go to where an infant had just died – during or immediately following childbirth. This was not the first time I had encountered childhood death, but it was the first time I had seen it with my own eyes.

I will avoid an extended ‘thick description’ of the encounter so as not to sensationalize it, providing only basic context. When I reached the site, the lifeless baby boy was lying on a plastic bag on the mud surface of his parent’s non-permanent, small, room-like home. His grieving family and neighbors surrounded him. All very poor, residents of this informal settlement had recovered from a fire that devastated over 200 homes constructed from makeshift materials earlier this year. The community lives in continual fear of demolition evictions.

My intention is not to focus on the depth of the family’s or my own emotions in the moment. I focus instead on a second encounter – a phone conversation with the infant’s father, Amar, days after the death. We had exchanged numbers when I tried to get his wife to the hospital after the infant’s death; this was challenging and the couple faced abuse and the initial denial of care. Following my subsequent conversation with Amar, I ascribed new and multifaceted meaning to a narrative I had heard before, but understood only partially.

My informants -- across field-sites -- often invoked ‘fate’ or ‘God’s will’ to explain tragic losses. These appeals to religion, or a higher power, appeared to be coping mechanisms defined by an acceptance of structural violence and injustice. I wondered whether despite allowing for immediate emotional survival, these perspectives might be simultaneously ‘disempowering.’ During the ‘reve­latory moment’ described below, however, I realized this concern was misplaced.

I called Amar when I had fallen too ill to visit the community as planned. Strikingly, despite his obvious grief, Amar enthusiastically expressed his gratitude to me. He shared feelings about his loss and updates on his wife’s condition. When I ex­pressed my sorrow about not having been present sooner, Amar reiterated that I had done so much, and even offered me assistance as I was unwell. He said, ‘sister, please don’t let this affect your mind…eat, drink and do your work…you are always welcome to our home, we will give you water and food….it was God’s will and not in our hands.’

I began to grasp the tremendous power that lay in Amar’s acceptance. It enabled him to offer gratitude, compassion, and even support, despite his loss being greater. Amar’s humanity in this moment was deeply moving, and admittedly overwhelming, especially when juxtaposed against the dehumanization of many like him – societally and by the state -- simply because of their poverty.

Only as I began to understand Amar’s humanity more completely, in vulnerable moments that generated emotional intimacy and empathy, was I able to appreciate his acceptance as truly powerful -- even ‘empowering.’ While authentic informant-researcher relationships can present unique challenges related to representation, such interactions also afford greater ethnographic depth (Parvez 2018). The researcher must therefore weigh choices about representation against their broader objectives. This requires unconditional respect for informants’ trust and vulnerability.

References


Ragini Saira Malhotra is a sociology PhD candidate at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research focuses on poverty, inequality and urban informality, with an emphasis on work, gender, childhood, informal economies and citizenship/migration.
Beyond the Nation-State’s Archives: On the Colonial Origins of Singapore’s Developmental State

Why study the colonial state? How might the colonial archives yield knowledge of state-building and development? This note is an account of how I turned from the study of international migration and development to colonial state formation, and an argument for the continued importance of a historicized sociology of development. To clarify this essay’s purpose, a brief biographical note is in order. Whereas my earlier scholarship focused primarily on the significance of the developmental state for migration policy-making, my book project examines the making of “direct rule,” or what was known as Crown Colony government, in the modern British Empire.

My journey into the colonial archives started with my engagement with the concept of the developmental state. A glance at a classic study of the politics and sociology of development, Chalmers Johnson’s (1982) _MITI and the Japanese Miracle_, reveals the historical depth of his explanation for why the Japanese state was able to pursue “catch-up development” in the wake of the Second World War. Tracing the making of Japan’s Ministry of International Trade and Industry to its original form, the Ministry of Munitions, Johnson’s paradigmatic study of the developmental state thus challenged scholars to examine the historical formation of their subjects and to go beyond present appearances in developing explanatory accounts of development. Thus, it was in this spirit that I began my research in Singapore’s National Archives, where I sought to uncover the roots of its developmental agencies and their ties to the state’s pragmatic approach to labor migration.

Due in part to the lack of public access to official correspondence and memoranda that would provide the evidentiary basis for a study of bureaucratic policy-making, my first attempt at research soon hit a wall. Searching for governmental records on the work permits issued to foreign workers, this initial foray in Singapore’s National Archives yielded a limited set of files, which did not reveal how the Ministry of Labour dictated labor migration policy. Mostly created by other agencies when they consulted with the Labour Ministry about the work permit system, these files indicated the latter’s authority over labor migration without detailing the Ministry’s internal deliberations over its regulations and policy. While the “locked and guarded” nature of Singapore’s official archives is well chronicled, this roadblock left me looking in other directions (see Loh and Liew 2010).

When I turned to records that I knew were available in Singapore’s public libraries and Parliament, e.g. newspapers, statutes, parliamentary proceedings and official reports, I began to trace the threads that tied post-colonial Singapore’s approach to law- and policy-making to its pasts. Even though these documents did not shed a direct light on the Labour Ministry’s processes of policy-making, they constituted the next best way to outline why Singapore’s developmental state accepted guest workers. As I discovered, Singapore’s attempts to regulate labor migration stemmed from its separation from Malaysia in 1965; the act of separation transformed a segment of its working classes into foreign labor (Lee forthcoming). Beyond this social and historical fact, I was drawn to the flurry of acts that were passed in the wake of independence. The speed of their passage was striking, and many, if not most, of them had been first enacted during British colonial rule. The laws and political institutions of Singapore’s developmental state had their origins in a further past.

This revelation induced a dramatic shift in my long-term research plans, as I moved away from my study of Singapore’s developmental nation-state to one that examined the legacies of British colonialism. I asked, what were the institutional origins and character of colonial law and the colonial state? How did they shape law- and policy-making in the past and present? Turning to the detailed records of Britain’s Colonial Office in the UK National Archives, I found answers to these questions in the authoritarian design of Crown Colony government. As a mode of governance that granted the Governor and his staff powers...
over colonial law-making and the judiciary, the
design of Crown Colony government foreshad-
owed the post-colonial state’s capacity and
tendencies to plan and execute developmental
programs, e.g. mass public housing and the im-
portation of labor, even at great human costs.
While turning to a project that is grounded in the
sociology of colonialism and empire, I continue to
wrestle with the question of social development
and its dialectical relationship with state policy. In
following work, I aim to investigate how the Brit-
ish Empire’s late turn to colonial development
and welfare shaped post-colonial social citizen-
ship.

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Workers: Bureaucratic Policy-making and
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The Makers & Keepers of Singapore History. Singa-
pore: Ethos Books.

Jack Jin Gary Lee is a Visiting Assistant Professor of
Sociology at Oberlin College. As a globally oriented sociol-
ogist who works across the fields of the sociology of empire
and colonialism, law and society, and political sociology,
Lee’s research and teaching has examined the significance
of race, politics, and law in processes of state-building and
development.

Development and Inclusion:
Prosecutorial Activism in the Case of the Belo Monte Dam

The Brazilian dam-building history has been
marked by exclusion: affected groups—such as in-
digenous or riverine communities—often have no
voice despite being severely affected by these pro-
jects. As a result, they are evicted from their origi-
nal homes and receive very small compensation, if
any compensation at all. However, the Belo Monte
dam, which was recently built in the state Pará lo-
cated in northern Brazil, is the first case in which
riverine groups were given compensation that
would allow them to restore their lifestyle by the
riverside. In my research, I explained how this
change took place. My initial hypothesis before
conducting fieldwork was that riverine groups
struggled to advance their demands through direct
action—such as street protests and sit-ins—but
were more successful when seeking help from the
Public Prosecutor’s Office (MP), an autonomous
agency that can act upon any case in which "collec-
tive interests" are involved.

My fieldwork partially confirmed this hypothesis. I
noticed that riverine groups did obtain important
victories in terms of compensation policies when
they channeled their demands through the MP.

However, I realized that it wasn’t “the MP” that
was highly engaged in this case, but individual
prosecutors. My puzzle then centered on why cer-
tain prosecutors engaged in the struggles of riverine
communities whereas others did not. Based on 82
in-depth interviews, participant observation of 14
meetings, and document analysis of civil suits, I
argue that prosecutors became activists as they in-
teracted with local communities—riverine families
and social movements—by discovering their griev-
ances and mediating their struggles with other policy
actors. I argue that self-selection and organizational
effects explain little of the variation in the motiva-
tion of prosecutors. Rather, they develop commit-
ments through interactive practices of discovery
and mediation.

In-depth interviews showed how these two practic-
es operated. As prosecutors discovered impacts on
indigenous and riverine groups that were previously
invisible to them, they internalized the demands of
these groups and put those demands in a central
place in their work agenda. According to one pros-
cutor: “I visited every riverine family. It is really
incredible to see how these groups are abandoned.
There are people who are invisible. (...) My next
action will be with these groups.” And it was. Upon discovering that riverine groups were largely abandoned during the construction of the dam, this prosecutor contacted multiple actors, including academic researchers, social movement activists and government bureaucrats to help organize an "inspection." This inspection was a 2-day visit at riverine communities in which several state actors, including the National Council of Human Rights, could look "with their own eyes" at what riverine families were going through. The prosecutor explained: “I had the idea to organize an inspection because a public hearing wouldn't work with these groups. (...) We cannot bring these riverine communities to Altamira, give them a microphone and expect them to speak in front of a crowd here. The meetings here are always a big mess. Our idea then was to go their homes so they could speak in their own time and in their own terms.”

As a result, the Brazilian Environmental Protection Agency (IBAMA) started to take immediate action to protect riverine groups, which ultimately resulted in an innovative resettlement policy that saw riverine groups return to the riverside to live in houses paid by the dam’s contracting company (Norte Energia). According to one IBAMA agent: "In 2015, the IBAMA was contacted by the Public Prosecutor's Office regarding the violation of rights of riverine groups when Norte Energia evicted them from their homes. Prosecutors demanded that we reevaluate the impacts generated by the eviction process. From then on, several actions were taken in order to guarantee the rights of these traditional groups. (...) One of the solutions we found was for riverine people to return to the river, which is a groundbreaking decision because there are no other dams in which a population was resettled to areas by the riverside."

Interviews with prosecutors and local activists were crucial to calibrate my hypothesis and reframe my research question. It was by observing and talking to local actors that I was able to understand who was engaged and how activist prosecutors were able to change the course of the Belo Monte dam and the riverine communities impacted by its construction.

Luiz Vilaça is a PhD Student in Sociology at the University of Notre Dame. His research cuts across organizational, political and cultural sociology, focusing on how social movement and state activists change policies and institutions.

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OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ASA Award Nominations – deadline January 31, 2019

Honor our colleagues’ achievements to the entire association and discipline and consider nominating someone for an ASA Award.

The following is a list of ASA awards and a link to the nomination call:

- Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award
- Dissertation Award
- Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology
- Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award
- Distinguished Scholarly Book Award
- Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues Award
- Jessie Bernard Award
- Public Understanding of Sociology Award
- W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award

Learn more about ASA’s Awards at [www.asanet.org/awards](http://www.asanet.org/awards)
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Sociology of Development 2019 Section Awards

The Sociology of Development section of the American Sociological Association invites nominations for three awards recognizing outstanding scholarship in the area of the sociology of development: Book Award, Faculty Article Award, and Graduate Student Paper Award.

Sociology of Development Section Book Award
All books published in 2017 or 2018 are eligible. A brief letter of nomination (self-nominations are welcome) and a copy of the nominated book should be sent to EACH of the committee members listed below by March 1, 2019. In accordance with ASA policy, all award nominees must be current members of the association in order to be considered.

Victoria Reyes (chair), vreyes@ucr.edu
1334 Watkins Drive, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521

Erin Beck, beck@uoregon.edu
934 W Broadway, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97402

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108 Berkshire St, UNC Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27403

Craig Van Pelt, Vanpeltc@sandhills.edu
Van Dusen Hall 226, 3395 Airport Road, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Marilyn Grell-Brisk, Marilyn.Grell-Brisk@unine.ch
Institute for Research on World Systems, Olmsted Hall 1218, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521

Sociology of Development Section Faculty Article Award
Please send a letter of nomination and an electronic version of the article to EACH of the committee members listed below by March 1, 2019. If the article has been published, the copyright date must be 2017 or 2018. However, unpublished articles are also welcome and self-nominations are encouraged. In accordance with ASA policy, all award nominees must be current members of the association in order to be considered.

Maggie Frye (chair), University of Michigan, mtfrye@umich.edu
Tim Gill, UNC Wilmington, gillt@uncw.edu
Steven Samford, University of Michigan, ssamford@umich.edu
Alessandra L. González, University of Chicago, alg2@uchicago.edu
Firuzeh Shokooh Valle, Franklin & Marshall College, fshokooh@fandm.edu

Sociology of Development Section Graduate Student Paper Award
Please send a letter of nomination and an electronic version of the article to EACH of the committee members listed below by March 1, 2019. If the article has been published, the copyright date must be 2017 or 2018. However, unpublished articles are also welcome and self-nominations are encouraged. The author must be a graduate student who has not received the PhD by March 1, 2019. For co-authored papers, all authors must be graduate students. In accordance with ASA policy, all award nominees must be current members of the association in order to be considered.
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Sociology of Development Panels at the CSA 2019 Meetings
June 3-6, 2019, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

The Canadian Sociological Association’s Sociology of Development Research Cluster is organizing two panels at the upcoming 2019 CSA Annual Meetings to be held at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, June 3-6, 2019. Details of both panels are below. If the open session is heavily subscribed, it is likely that the session will be split into several panels according to common themes. Submissions from all sociologists of development are welcome!

For more information or to submit an abstract, visit: https://www.csa-sc.ca/conference/call-for-abstracts/

Session 1: Participatory Research Methodologies in Development: Benefits, Challenges, Lessons and Reflections
This session brings together experiences with participatory action research or other innovative participatory methods in the field of development. We invite analyses of the benefits and challenges for both researchers and participants during any stage of the knowledge creation process such as, research design, fieldwork, data analysis, ethical matters, intersubjectivity, and knowledge dissemination. The goal is to reflect critically on the empowering and transformative capacity of participatory methodologies as well as their limitations in order to understand better under what conditions such research approaches deliver the best outcome.

Organizers: Jasmin Hristov, University of British Columbia, jasminmanaus@gmail.com
Research Cluster Affiliation: Sociology of Development
Areas: Development and Globalization, Research Methods,

Session 2: Sociology of Development
This open session features papers on the sociology of development, broadly defined. Works examining, but not limited to, the technological, cultural, political and economic dimensions of development, the effects of the interplay of local and global processes and actors on development and social change, the significance of class, gender, and race/ethnicity in the causes and consequences of development, alternative development projects pursued by grassroots movements and/or states, and new theoretical approaches and conceptions of development, are all invited. Papers may explore any unit of analysis local, regional, national, international or world systems.

Organizers: Liam Swiss, Memorial University, lswiss@mun.ca; Jasmin Hristov, University of British Columbia; Andrew Dawson, Glendon, York University; Md Saidul Islam, Nanyang Technological University
Research Cluster Affiliation: Sociology of Development
Research Areas: Development and Globalization
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
American Sociological Association 2019 Preconference

Social Science and Social Justice: Global Health Research 40 Years since the Start of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Organizers: Sociologists’ AIDS Network and the Global Health and Development Interest Group
Where: New York City, NY
When: August 9, 2019 (one day before the ASA meetings)
Theme: The HIV/AIDS epidemic has yielded the largest global response to any illness in history and offers an important lens through which to examine a range of issues related to health inequity more broadly. Early in the HIV epidemic, activism both at home and abroad played a major role in drawing attention to the desperate need for government action, with important actions taking place in New York City. Battles regarding stigma and marginalization, access to expensive therapies, and community mobilizing for action played out in settings across the globe, even as dramatic changes to the global health landscape occurred. During this period, governmental, international and non-governmental organizations made substantial economic, political, and policy commitments to improving access to healthcare and medicine, with many of these new targets institutionalized in the Sustainable Development Goals. Although progress has been made on many fronts in both HIV and global health, old challenges remain and new ones loom on the horizon, like the rise of non-infectious diseases in the developing world and the population health impacts of climate change.

Both within the US and globally, enormous disparities exist with regard to access to health care, how programs and policies are implemented, and who lives and dies. These inequities, rooted in racism, sexism, homophobia, economic injustice, and global power structures, are inextricably linked to the social organization of societies, institutions, politics, and power. In lieu of this, and as some governments have started to back away from their promises and curtail health funding, these challenges require a response that is oriented towards social justice and informed by sociology.

This year’s Annual Meeting theme “Engaging Social Justice for a Better World” presents a critical opportunity to examine the contributions sociologists have made to research on HIV and the field of global health more broadly, as well as what contributions remain to be made. Further, it raises the question of how we can ensure that our research, programs, policies and medical advances support health equity, rather than contribute to increasing disparities, particularly during a time when both scientific evidence and government funding for research are under threat. To address these questions, this mini-conference will bring together scholars of HIV, global health and development to stimulate discussion around the role of social justice in health research and what makes sociologists uniquely positioned to tackle some of our greatest health challenges. In particular, it will provide an opportunity to think about how lessons learned from the HIV response can be adapted to other pressing health issues; how global health research in other areas might inform the changing HIV response; and more generally, how sociological insight constitutes a key tool in promoting the use of science in evidence-based health policy and practice.

Call for Submissions: Abstracts for papers should be linked to one of four key themes that panels will explore:
- Politics, Power and Global Health: exploring the tensions between policies, organizations, institutions and the local realities of health or illness;
- Health Inequities and the Consequences of Social Suffering: examining the lived experience of illness on individuals and communities;
- Science, Technologies and Bodies of Global Health: exploring the role of STS in global health and the production of health knowledge in global spaces;
Health Activism and the Pursuit of Social Justice: engaging as scholar activists and understanding the intended and unintended consequences of social action.

Abstracts should contain the following information in the following form:
- Title
- Theme: (please select the theme above that most closely fits the paper or say ‘other’ if you can’t find a good fit)
- Contact details: (author/s, affiliation, and e-mail address)
- Abstract: (no more than 300 words)

All abstracts should be sent to: Brooke S. West at bsw2110@columbia.edu
The deadline for sending abstracts is Friday, December 14, 2018.
The preconference committee will inform successful applicants by Friday, December 21, 2018.

Note: The preconference proposal with all confirmed participants will be submitted for ASA Program Committee approval by January 9th (submission system closing date).

Pre-conference Organizing Committee:
Brooke West, Columbia University
Joseph Harris, Boston University
Nicole Angotti, American University
Sam Friedman, NDRI
Sanyu Mojola, Princeton University
Shiri Noy, Denison University
Tasleem Padamsee, Ohio State University
Rachel Sullivan Robinson, American University
MISSION STATEMENT
The Sociology of Development Section of ASA promotes work in sociology on the causes and effects of development. We support work in all geographical regions including the United States, other advanced industrial nations and the Global South. We are open to work of all theoretical orientations and all methodological orientations. Both theoretical and applied work is welcome.

SECTION COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS
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Sociology of Development Website:
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Sociology of Development Newsletter:
Please send all your ideas, feedback, and submissions to socdevsectors@gmail.com.