SECTORS

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

Section Officers, 2021-2022

Chair
Enrique Pumar
Santa Clara University

Past Chair
Matt Sanderson
Kansas State University

Secretary/Treasurer
Matthias vom Hau
Institut Barcelona d'Estudis
Internacionals

Section Council
Jordanna Matlon (2022)
American University
Victoria Reyes (2022)
U. of California, Riverside
Shiri Noy (2023)
Denison University
Firuzeh Shokooh Valle (2023)
Franklin & Marshall College
Devparna Roy (2024)
Nazareth College
Marco Garrido (2024)
University of Chicago

Student Representative
Rahardhika Utama (2023)
Northwestern University

Webmaster
Vacant

Mentorship Program Coordinator
Karin Johnson
Texas A&M University

Newsletter Editors
Preethi Krishnan (2022)
Western Carolina University
Leslie MacColman (2022)
The Ohio State University
Mushahid Hussain (2023)
Cornell University

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Enrique Pumar

The naturalist John Muir always expressed optimism about the coming of Spring. We have many reasons to agree with him. Since we last published our Winter newsletter, our section has been busy at work and we have many exciting things to report.

I hope that by this time you have had a chance to browse through the ASA annual meeting preliminary program. Our Program Committee, headed by Heidi Rademacher, put together an exciting line-up of panels and roundtables and all our events are conveniently scheduled for Saturday, August 6th and Sunday, August 7th (included in this newsletter!). Our Business Meeting is scheduled for Saturday at 3:00 pm and our joint reception with friends from Environmental Sociology, organized by Matthias Vom Hau and Amalia Leguizamon, will occur on Saturday at 7:00 pm at the Arts District Brewing Company. I sincerely hope you can attend both as well as the academic presentations and discussion on Sunday.

Another great event is our pre-conference. When I assumed the position of section chair, I stated as one of my goals the desire to decentralized the decision-making in our section through empowerment and consultation. We had a wonderful opportunity to test this purpose in the organization of our Sociology of Development Pre-Conference. This year I asked the leaders of each of three subsections to organize the conference. The result was a very inclusive and collaborative democratic process which resulted in a very stimulating program (also included in this newsletter). Scheduled for Friday, August 5, the event will be virtual and free to assure we satisfy our intentions to further our inclusiveness and diversity. My home institution, Santa Clara University, is committed to run the cost of the webinar, making it cost neutral for our section. Our colleague Devparna Roy secured an insightful keynote speaker who would have us reflect about social justice and our roles as engaged academics. I hope you would find time to join us.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we are in the middle of the ASA election season. I hope you support the extraordinary group of candidates Matthew Sanderson and our Nomination Committee put together. I would be remiss if I do not close without noting my heartfelt gratitude to all our colleagues, especially the members of our Council and our newsletter editors, who volunteered their time to assure our success this year. The group is too large to mention here. I want to assure you, it literally "takes a village" to run a section and I am indebted and eternally grateful for the time, effort, and ideas each and everyone in the group altruistically devoted to our continued success. My sincere thanks also to all our members for your continued support. Enrique.

SYMPOSIUM: POLICY, POLITICS, AND PRAXIS IN DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY

Introduction

Karl Marx famously critiqued philosophers for simply *interpreting* the world when, according to him, "the point is to change it" (Marx, 1845). Many contemporary sociologists would likely agree. The question is how? The sociology of development, as a field of academic inquiry, took shape alongside applied international development policy and practice (Viterna and Robinson, 2015). But, today, the relationship between *sociological research on development* and *on-the-ground development interventions* is often unclear. To what extent do these fields inform one another? And to what extent should they? Prasad (2021) argues that emancipatory social science, which aims not only to understand but to improve society, is well-suited to take on real problems, like hunger, poverty, disease, and others that have long been a focus of development research and practice. However, there is an implicit tension between the impulse to ask broad, historically-informed questions about why poverty and inequality persist and the actions required to reduce everyday hardships, regardless of their causes. There are concerns that theory alone cannot produce change and that critical perspectives on development fail to offer 'actionable' recommendations. On the other hand, there is a real risk that sociological knowledge will be instrumentalized to advance the agenda of powerful entities, including governments and funding organizations, who have vested interests in what 'development' is and how it should occur.

In this edition of *Sectors*, we present two provocative essays that grapple with these tensions. Both essays are written by sociologists whose day-to-day work lies at the intersection of scholarship and practice and, as such, offer crucial insights that are often overlooked within traditional academic spheres. O'Connell's essay focuses on the legacy of activist scholarship in California's San Joaquin Valley, where demands for social, economic, and environmental justice have underscored challenges to industrial agribusiness as a taken-for-granted pathway for local 'development.' Woolcock, drawing on decades of experience at the World Bank, focuses on the inner workings of the international development policy arena, where contentious debates about 'what works,' 'for whom,' and 'at what cost' ultimately helps inform the type of social development policies implemented by multilateral agencies.

The two authors inhabit very different geographic and organizational spaces. But, remarkably (or not?) their essays converge around several common themes. Notably, they both highlight the *difference* between scholarly analysis produced by and for academics, and action-oriented research, in which practical rather than theoretical concerns drive the agenda. Using research to influence development in real time often means defying the traditional institutional logics of academia: writing for different audiences, sustaining an agenda over years or even decades, and navigating fierce pushback that is not scientific but *political* in character. As both authors point out, development praxis is a battleground in which public policymakers, corporations, universities, communities, and others key players often have conflicting interests. In this context, it seems that one of the most important things that we, as development sociologists, have to offer is our capacity to produce new and better 'truths' about the social world. Scholarly 'truth-telling' and sustained coalition-building, at the elite and grassroots levels, is the alchemy needed to turn ideas into action, thus shaping the present and future of development.

Sectors Co-Editors,
Leslie MacColman, Mushahid Hussain, and Preethi Krishnan

The Praxis of Activist Scholarship in the Fight against Industrial Agribusiness

Daniel O'Connell, Ph.D.,
Executive Director, Central Valley Partnership

The history of activist scholarship, focused particularly on the work of sociologists who first analyzed and then confronted the effects of industrial agribusiness on rural communities in California, offers lessons in how to conduct research and direct its inquiry at locally situated problems in highly politicized arenas.

In our book, *In the Struggle: Scholars and the Fight against Industrial Agribusiness in California*, Scott Peters and I had an opportunity to enter into a century-long, ethnographic encounter with a handful of scholars who worked from a variety of locations: at universities, in the fields, and with local communities. Much of this activism, engagement and research was centered in the polarized San Joaquin Valley of California.

Our research unearthed not only previously censored and suppressed histories (and in doing so, revisited some of the most iconic studies in rural sociology) but also enabled us to document lessons from the trials and experiences of eight activist scholars who participated in an intergenerational contest against some of the most formidable oppressing structures in the state and nation.

In The Struggle concludes with a set of axioms to assist and guide the next generation who are now entering the fight. Based upon the testimonies, research, and activism of the earlier scholars, these lessons may now be relevant to coming battles, particularly at this moment when humanity is faced with existential crises. They are also useful in considering how to broadly mobilize sociological research to effect real change.

- **Practice supersedes theory** – Strategies conform to the ground upon which they are enacted and put in motion. Similarly, applied social theory needs to correspond to actual lived problems. When crises arise, the need for activism becomes acute. Applicable theory tends toward conjecture without engagement.
- **Hybridize roles and shift positions as necessary** – The valley scholars adapted their roles and positions in response to the realities they experienced, community needs identified, and opportunities to achieve through their engagement. They worked as labor organizers, policy advocates, government researchers, non-profit directors, community development specialists and coordinators of coalitions

and networks. They closed the gap between their intellectual work and the lives of the people they wanted to learn from and assist.

- **Engage problems directly over extended periods of time** – In many cases, effective engagement to create social and political change took decades, requiring the work of a succession of scholars. Their extended collaboration bridged shared values and common objectives, spanning social movements and historic epochs. Over time, as their understanding matured, they improved tactics, innovated strategies, and refined theory. Intergenerational engagement became necessary for a sustained assault against systemic and structural problems.

- **Hold, carry and share truth** – Contests over truth are wars of attrition. Once engaged, the valley scholars were obligated to hold their positions and defend their findings until they were socially accepted. Along this vein, there were a number of occasions where older scholars, nearing the end of their lives, passed on their intentions and extended invitations to younger scholars to continue the work.

- **Expect political reaction** – In the valley, when political pressure was exerted on the scholars, it often revealed pertinent vulnerabilities in their adversaries. Some of the scholars tactically invited attack by baiting opponents. More often, powerful economic forces weighed in on the scientific process attempting to intimidate scholars and muddle or falsify results.

- **Pressure indicates relevance** – It is clear, in retrospect, that political pressure indicated that the scholars were hitting their mark. If they had identified a meaningful target and there was political reaction, it was because a worthwhile vulnerability had been breached. Threats and attacks from reactionary institutions are perhaps the best measure of a study's effectiveness toward achieving social justice.

- **Leverage legal precedent and public process** – While public universities and government bureaucracies were corrupted by agribusiness influence, breaking with their ascribed public purposes, these arenas were also the ground where the fight often took place most transparently and in ways that could leverage established public processes, legislative mandates and juridical directives.

- **Design research to interrogate social problems** – Research combined with community organizing and pedagogies aimed at empowerment, threaten power structures. Within this potent mix, valley scholars framed their research within adaptable, participatory methods. While scientific research produced groundbreaking findings, it was often that on-the-ground political engagement contributed most to the base-building work of educational empowerment, organizing workers, and securing community.

- **Produce texts for varied constituencies** – The production of texts mirrored the diversity of methods utilized by valley scholars who published in a wide variety of venues and styles, including popular magazines and with visual representations from photographs, films and maps. They adjusted their voice for different audiences and altered publication venues for strategic opportunities.

- **Enable social movements** – Social movements are inseparable from community aspirations. The work of activist scholars is directly linked to these movements for change. Their unique work, both tactical and strategic, assist in defining complex systems and mapping organizational structures so that they may be transformed for the public's benefit.

The history of academic engagement against industrial agribusiness in California arcs from an early foundation marginally secured within universities into current on-the-ground organizing and engagement where the distance between theory and practice is tempered by the immediacy of the struggle. Inevitably, the most effective position for these scholars was to lead from the front and stay in the fight as long as possible.

Putting Sociology to Work in Development Policy and Practice

Michael Woolcock
World Bank and Harvard University

Most social science researchers, I suspect, harbor some hope that their work will be taken seriously in scholarly circles but will also, somehow, help to 'make the world a better place'. In the field of global development, realizing this aspiration can be sought actively or passively. If the latter, one's theory of change is likely to be some version of: "I'll do the best research I can and hopefully get it published somewhere good, but leave it to others to discern and promote any 'policy implications' that may emerge from it. I don't want to get too close to the 'policy world'; after all, the integrity of my work might be compromised by those with an overt political agenda. Better to just write a stinging critique of prevailing ways of doing things." Taking such an approach has its place.

If one pursues a more active mode of engagement, however, one's theory of change begins, not ends, with a salient development policy problem; the research agenda stemming from this theory seeks to disentangle the analytical, structural, political and administrative factors that shape how (and by whom) the policy problem is defined, how support for certain solutions (over others) are mobilized and consolidated, how (and by whom) claims regarding the relative effectiveness of these solutions are made, and – crucially – how credible alternatives might be enacted, implemented and evaluated. Holding all these pieces together requires useable theory. But if it's actual change one wants to bring about, conducting such an analysis is just the start; taking a sociological approach to one's theory of change surely entails recognizing that "policymakers" aren't exactly sitting around waiting for the latest issue of *Social Problems*. To the extent such a group even exists, "policymakers" are but one group among many needing to be intentionally engaged and persuaded in terms readily amenable to them – which are not likely to be those of the seminar room or journal articles. If they somehow come across your research and show interest in it, you will then have to work hard to sustain that interest and build a constituency large enough to get any proposed solution authorized and funded.

Whatever emerges from the proverbial policy-making "sausage machine" then has to be implemented, perhaps initially as a 'pilot' and then at scale, by a designated administrative unit that may or may not have the necessary willingness and capability; and finally, after perhaps two or three years, you will have to brace for a robust debate in the cauldron of contestation that will accompany evaluations of your "policy" – supporters will love it even if it's a clear failure, critics will hate it even if it's a spectacular success. But if it's a social development intervention, your theory of change will likely anticipate that its impact will be conspicuously and inherently "mixed": benefiting some groups and places but not others, unfolding over a non-linear, non-uniform trajectory, its impact heavily shaped by "context", certain key aspects of which may not be readily expected, measurable, or manageable (e.g., leadership quality). Compared to those promoting infrastructure, nutrition supplements or cash transfers, your impact claims will sound weak and indecisive. If you stick with things for a decade or two, despite numerous setbacks and disappointments, maybe, perhaps, something somewhere will actually have changed 'for the better' – only for that very 'improvement' to have put in motion a whole new round of challenges (e.g., migration). Welcome to the nexus of social research and development policy!

Doing any of this requires a multitude of different skills and sensibilities, few of which are taught – or could possibly be taught – in graduate school: the relentlessly intense pressure of such work is impossible to simulate, few professors have such experience, and their core incentives are to prepare students for academic careers (just as it was *their* professors' incentives that successfully produced them!). One person is unlikely to have this full array of skills and sensibilities, but if you're serious about actively contributing to – not just passively "calling for" – change in development policy and practice, you at least need to know that

such diverse attributes are required, and that they need to be appreciated by, and coherently integrated into, your team. Crucially, there are things you learn about your policy problem and the tribulations of enacting a solution to it that you can *only* learn by active engagement; reading another dozen books on the subject, or crunching yet more data, only gets you so far. That was the primary reason why, nearly 25 years ago, I accepted the opportunity to become the first (and only) sociologist hired by the World Bank's Development Research Group: namely, to more viscerally understand what multilateralism is and does, and to be vastly closer to the actual people and places where development 'policy' is debated, decided, funded, enacted, and assessed. I simply could not have done the type of research I have done – which has won both a best-book (2012) and best-article (2014) prize from this ASA section – had I been based exclusively in academia.

I have too much respect for actual development practitioners to ever call myself one – indeed, I strongly suspect I wouldn't be a very good practitioner at all – but any career choice comes with trade-offs, and for me it wasn't a hard call to give up a small slice of academic 'freedom' to gain much closer proximity to "the room where it happens." This approach too, I like to think, has it place. To paraphrase what L. P. Hartley famously said of history, the world of policy "is a foreign country; they do things differently there." Like those respectfully visiting a foreign country, development sociologists seeking to connect the worlds of research and policy need to make the time and effort to understand how these different worlds function; sociologists, of all people, should surely be attuned to the reality that these are different 'epistemic communities', often with very different understandings of what counts as a question and what counts as an answer. For development sociologists wanting to 'make the world a better place', this means one's theory of change must also recognize that you beat something by doing the hard work of finding and offering up something better – not just by doing the relatively easy work of writing acerbic criticism that remains firmly within academic forums and sociological framings.

I hasten to add that, with sufficient effort, one can do excellent applied work from an academic base. Erin McDonnell's research on understanding why some administrative units in poor countries function so much better than others, for example, is an exemplary case of how to be both rigorous and relevant; recent related work in political science – Yuen Yuen Ang's explanations of how local-level Chinese officials implemented history's most sustained period of poverty reduction, or Dan Honig's large-scale analysis of why, in vexingly difficult contexts, some development projects function so much better than others – also shows how this can be done. Unless and until we sociologists can actively demonstrate how our theories and methods can decisively and pragmatically 'make the world a better place', which they surely can, I fear we will only affirm the maxim that the worst thing in the policy world is not to be wrong, but to be ignored.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Using Digital Ethnographic Methods to Study Social Movements

Rebekah Groth
Sociology PhD student, University of Georgia

In the spring of 2020, I was planning to do a case study on abortion legalization in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. However, the pandemic disrupted those plans and I needed to revise my project. I ended up conducting a digital ethnographic project on the social movement for abortion rights in Mexico, specifically focusing on a nonlegal strategy for advancing abortion access, abortion accompaniment. Having to pivot my research ultimately improved my project as I learned creative methods and gained valuable insights into studying social movements using digital ethnographic methods. Although I encountered methodological uncertainty and challenges, this process revealed several advantages there are to incorporating digital data collection into the study of social movements. Using my experience studying abortion activism using digital methods, I argue that researchers who study national-level social movements or other types of widespread social activism consider the potential advantages of a "mixed" ethnographic approach that fuses elements of digital and traditional ethnography.

For my project, I divided data collection into two parts: online data collection and zoom interviews with activists. While collecting data online about the groups involved in abortion activism informed who I chose to contact for interviews along with my guiding questions during the interview, I realized that many of the inferences I made based on the available data online were inaccurate. Additionally, many groups I spoke with did not have an online presence at all and completely relied on word of mouth for people to know about their work. This brings me to the second main challenge with using digital platforms to study social movements: relying on virtual social movement activity can reinforce centering the voices and perspectives of the more established, institutionalized, and funded sectors of a social movement. Researchers should critically evaluate what *types* of social movement organizations/ groups have functional websites or the resources (e.g., time) to operate an active and popular social media page. To account for this, I asked connected movement participants for names of individuals that participate in activism that is less visible online and in doing so, I was able to diversify my interview sample and include people who participated in the movement in different capacities and contexts.

While my research revealed issues with the accuracy of some types of social media data, doing digital ethnography "forced" me to consider creative alternatives to participant observation and live-streamed events proved to be an extremely useful resource for studying a social movement. I attended public meetings such as webinars, Facebook/YouTube Lives, and private zoom meetings, taking field notes of the content and transcribing if the content was recorded and publicly available online. Because the pandemic caused meetings and events to be online, I gained key insights into the movement, history, main actors, the nature of relationships between organizations, and discourses from listening to live-streamed conversations between activists. Attending these events also critically informed my questions during interviews and improved the quality of my conversations with activists, highlighting the value of engaging with online content, even if the project design is a traditional ethnography. Additionally, using digital ethnographic methods allowed me to interview activists across the country. While ethnographic approaches typically focus on a few geographic locations, I was able to have a geographically diverse sample, which undoubtedly improved the quality of my work.

I have seen how interacting with movements online can improve the breadth and depth of data through transcribing live-streamed events and being free of the geographic constraints of a typical ethnography. However, I caution digital ethnographers from relying solely on available social media data. Echoing previous scholars, my research confirms the value of fusing digital and in-person ethnographic methods and highlights creative ways to study social movements using the internet.

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AT THE ASA

Sociology of Development Virtual Pre-Conference "Dislocation, Development and Democracy"

Our 2022 Development Pre-conference highlights the diversity of views and theories in our field. We consider four development sub-fields to show how cutting-edge thinking and research contributes to further understand the intersectional complexities around issues of universal concerns. Together these perspectives demonstrate the urgent need to bring social justice back to studies about the wellbeing of others.

Friday, August 5

8:45-9:00 am (PST) Welcome by Conference Presider Heidi Rademacher

9:00-10:15 am (PST) Morning Plenary

Panel I. New Approaches to the Political Economy of Development
Presenter and Discussant: Anthony Roberts
Johanna Bockman: Neoclassical Economics in International Development
Anthony Roberts: A Decline in Income Inequality? Cross-National Income Convergence Revisited
Samuel Cohen, et.al.: Sociology of Growth after Growth.
Leslie MacColman: Material Interests, Moral Claims, and Partisan Contests.

10:15-10:30 Morning Break

10:30-11:45 am (PST) Morning Concurrent Panels

Panel II. New Epistemic Approaches to Development
Presenter and Discussant: Aarushi Bhandari/Tine Hanrieder
David B. Schwartz: Anomie Inducing Frames
Stephanie Trapnell: Evidence in international development
Aarushi Bhandari: Communication in the World System
Julian Eckl and Tine Hanrieder: How consultancy firms influence global institutions

Panel III. Issues of Inclusive Development
Presenter and Discussant: Enrique S. Pumar
Lisette A. Linares: Disentangling the effects of informal employments and cash transfers
Sonal Sharma: The meaning of labor unions for informal sector workers
Timothy Gorman: Ethnic Minority Migration
Vaclav Masek: Temporal Imaginations

12 noon- 1:45 pm (PST) KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Keynote Address and Discussion: Daniel O'Connell, PhD. Author of *The Struggle: Scholars and the Fight against Industrial Agribusiness in California in 2021*. Will speak on "A Call to Action: The Praxis of Activist Scholarship"

1:45-2:00 pm (PST) Afternoon Break

2:00-4:00 pm (PST) Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Panel IV. Comparative Perspectives of Issues in Public Health & Development
Presenter and Discussant: Tuba Agartan
Rachel Robinson: How countries become global health success stories?
James G. Linn and Jorge Chuaqui: Will Chile achieve greater parity and coverage in Mental Health?
Rita Jalali: Global Health Priorities and the Neglect of Menstrual Health and Hygiene
Aziza Ahmed and Jason Jackson: The Global Governance of Health

Panel II. Environmental Justice, Climate Change, and Development
Presenter and Discussant: LeDawn Haglund
John A. Zinda and M. Yao: Perennial Shifts
Carrie S. Fleming: The New Green Revolution
Adrian Schlegel: Bureaucracy and/or Environmental Justice?
Victor Dias: Climate Change, Legal Ambiguity, and Organizational Culture
Jennifer Keahey: Rethinking Energy Democracy

4:00-5:30 pm (PST) Virtual Happy Hour and Informal Chat

Sociology of Development Sessions at ASA 2022

Saturday, August 6

Development and the Transformation of Space and Capital - Paper Session
8:00 to 9:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 304B

Description: New research in the Sociology of Development that invokes the transformation and valorization of space and its inter-relation to capital. The consequences for social conflict, for legitimation, and for human welfare. The role of the state as a mediator of all this. Innovative and exciting empirical analyses ranging from local case studies in war zones to grand macro-analyses of the contemporary world system.

Session Organizer: Samuel Cohn, Texas A&M University-College Station
Presentations:
- On the Road to State Power? State Formation through Relations of Dependence in Rural Colombia: Alex Diamond, University of Texas at Austin
- Freedom Gas or Weaponized Gas? The Political Ecology and Economy of 21st Century Natural Gas: Paul S. Ciccantell, Western Michigan University
- Accumulation by Inclusion: Politics, Profit, and the Provision of Social Housing in Latin America: Carter M. Koppelman, Florida Atlantic University
- Financialization and Social Spending in Latin America and the Caribbean - Diogo Lemieszek Pinheiro, University of North Georgia; Rana Gautam; Dwight Wilson
- COVID-19 and Imperial Value: Commodity Chains, Global Monopolies, and Catastrophe Capitalism - Intan F. Suwandi, Illinois State University; John Bellamy Foster, University of Oregon

Non-Governmental Organizations, Business and the State in Development - Paper Session
10:00 to 11:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 304B

Description: Both capital accumulation and the reduction on human misery in the Global South depend on bilateral and trilateral interactions between non-governmental organizations, business and the state. This panel offers fresh perspectives into how those dynamics play out.

Session Organizer: Samuel Cohn, Texas A&M University-College Station
Presider & Discussant: Brian J. Dill, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Presentations:
- Public Procurement, Product Quality, and Prejudice: The Case of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the Dominican Republic - Andrew Schrank, Brown University
- Maintaining Presence or Retaking Control? Regulatory Governance in the Era of the Knowledge Economy - Su Yeone Jeon
- Merits of Social Protection? Correlates of World Bank's Project Performance - Seong-Kwon Cho, Sungkyunkwan University; Jeong-Woo Koo, Sungkyunkwan University

Bureaucracies, Policies, and Development: Comparative Approaches - Invited Session
2:00 to 3:30pm, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 403A

Description: States have long been central to the analysis of development. Recent scholarship has moved beyond states as monoliths to increasingly disentangle effects of different bureaucratic organizational features, particular development policies, and differences among agencies or subnational geographies. These moves have increasingly brought a comparative lens to classic theoretical interest in how state organization and political choices affect development outcomes. This thematic session is dedicated to discussing how comparative approaches to bureaucracies and policies advance sociological understanding of development.

Session Organizer: Erin Metz McDonnell, University of Notre Dame
Presider: James Rauch, University of California - San Diego
Panelists:
- Patrick G. Heller, Brown University
- Monica Prasad, Northwestern University
- Gay W. Seidman, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Luciana de Souza Leao, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- Diana Graizbord, University of Georgia

Joint Reception: Sections on Environmental Sociology and Sociology of Development
7:00 to 9:30pm Offsite, Arts District Brewing Company

Sunday, August 7

Current Issues in Sociology of Development - Paper Session
8:00 to 9:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 301A

Description: This interdisciplinary, open session explores wide-ranging discourses and themes on development sociology to improve understanding of the field as a whole. All studies on development are welcome, regardless of theoretical orientation, methodological preference, region of study, or historical period of study.

Session Organizers: Grace Yuehan Wang, Stellenbosch University, South Africa and Heidi E. Rademacher, SUNY-Brockport
Presider: Monica Prasad, Northwestern University
Presentations:
- Cracks & Leaks of Mega-Dam Projects: Development Infrastructures & Regimes of Water (de)provisioning in Lebanon - Mona Khneisser, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
- Maize, Beans, and the New Green Revolution - Carrie Seay-Fleming, University of Colorado
- Running Elections: Negotiating Development Funding and the Techno-Politics of Citizenship in the Honduran Mosquitia - Fernando Galeana Rodriguez, William and Mary
- The co-production of coffee terroir on the Galápagos Islands: Knowledge, power, and sustainability of geographical indications - Matthew J Zinsli

Comparative Perspectives on Sociology of Development - Paper Session
10:00 to 11:30am LACC, Floor: Level 2, 301A

Description: This panel will examine the diversity of ways in which development work and scholarship impact social processes in local, national, and global contexts. By exploring and contrasting different approaches to research and practice, the papers on this panel may focus on the nature and meaning of development today or explore future lines of inquiry on development.

Session Organizers: Amit Anshumali, The University of Chicago and Heidi E. Rademacher, SUNY-Brockport
Presider: Grace Yuehan Wang, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Presentations:
- Bureaucracies of emplacement, fettered politics: explaining land titling in two Brazilian states - Gabriel Locke Suchodolski, UCLA
- Does Foreign Investment Affect Economic Growth in Developing Countries? New Cross-National Evidence, 1990-2019 - Steven Andrew Mejia, University of California, Irvine
- Social Insecurity under Contemporary Capitalism - Rina Agarwala, Johns Hopkins University
- The Globalization of Production, National Labor Regulations, and Income Inequality Across the North-South Divide, 1980-2013 - Anthony Roberts, Colorado State University; Thai Binh Tran, Colorado State University

Social Justice and Development - Invited Session
12:00 to 1:30pm LACC, Floor: Level 2, 301A

Description: Social Justice has been recognized as a growing concern within the field of development. This panel will explore the relationships between social justice and development, question if a social justice approach to development can be achieved, and further unpack the power relations that perpetuate injustice and inequality.

Session Organizer: Heidi E. Rademacher, SUNY-Brockport
Discussant: Enrique S. Pumar, Santa Clara University
Panelists:
- Bruce G Link, University of California Riverside
- San Juanita García, University of California-Santa Barbara
- Siwan Anderson, The University of British Columbia
- Jennifer Keahey, Arizona State University-West

Sociology of Development Refereed Roundtables
2:00 to 3:00pm JW Marriott, Floor: Gold Level, Gold Salon 1
- Table 1: Questions of Health and Development
- Table 2: Power and Institutions
- Table 3: Political Approaches to National Development
- Table 4: Tension and Justice In the Global Economy

Sociology of Development Business Meeting
3:00 to 3:30pm JW Marriott, Floor: Gold Level, Gold Salon 1

SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sociological Insights for Development Policy

Sociological Insights for Development Policy aims to raise awareness about the research being done by members of our section and strengthen engagement between scholars, policy makers and practitioners. In doing so, it aims to enhance sociology's impact on development discourse and practice throughout the world. If you would like to contribute a brief, please contact Alaka Basu at ab54@cornell.edu.

All Policy Briefs can be accessed on the Sociology of Development. Volume 6 includes the following briefs:

"Diversions: How the Absence of Research on Advantaged Groups Perpetuates Health Inequalities" *by Bruce G. Link (University of California, Riverside) and San Juanita Garcia (University of California, Santa Barbara)*

"Missing Widows" *by Siwan Anderson (University of British Columbia) and Debraj Ray (New York University)*

"'Morality Policy' vs Social or Development Policy: The Catholic Church in the Politics of Abortion in Ireland and Poland" *by Sydney Calkin (Queen Mary University of London) and Monika Ewa Kaminska (University of Breman)*

"Time Poverty and Multi-Tasking among Women with Young Children in India" *by Laili Irani (Independent Researcher) and Vidya Vemireddy (Indian Institute of Management)*

"Workplace Disability and Death in an Era of Mass Incarceration: Insights from the US Military" *by Eiko Strader (George Washington University)*

"Good Governance Can Reduce the Gender Gap in Secondary Schooling" *by Jamie M. Sommer (University of South Florida) and Kathleen M. Fallon (Stony Brook University)*

Spring 2022 Sociology of Development Journal
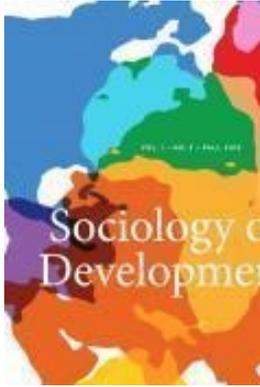
Sociology of Development Journal (*http://socdev.ucpress.edu/*)
This is an international journal addressing issues of development, broadly considered. With basic as well as policy-oriented research, topics explored include economic development and well-being, gender, health, inequality, poverty, environment and sustainability, political economy, conflict, social movements, and more.

Editors: Andrew Jorgenson & Jeffrey Kentor
Frequency: Quarterly in March, June, September, and December
eISSN: 2374-538X

Table of Contents
Vol. 8 No. 1, Spring 2022, https://online.ucpress.edu/socdev/issue/8/1

Mobile Phones and Attitudes toward Women's Participation in Politics: Evidence from Africa
Carlotta Varriale, Luca Maria Pesando, Ridhi Kashyap, Valentina Rotondi
(pp. 1-37) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2020.0039

State Capacity and Public Provision in a Socially Fragmented Nation: A Subnational Analysis of Maternal Mortality Disparities in Indonesia
Iim Halimatusa'Diyah
(pp. 38-62) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2020.0030

The Fitting Process: Getting a Formal Job at a Luxury Hotel in Vietnam
Jacinto Cuvi, Kimsa Maradan
(pp. 63-84) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2021.0016

Strength in Numbers or Collective Frailty? The Organizational Capacity of Microenterprises
Steven Samford
(pp. 85-110.) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2021.0037

Toward Global Urban Climate Mitigation: Linking National and Polycentric Systems of Environmental Change
Benjamin Leffel
 (pp. 111-137) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2021.001

Mentorship Program

ASA Sociology of Development Mentorship Program 2022

We are pleased to announce that the ASA Sociology of Development Section Mentorship program continues again this year. Applications for mentors and mentees are accepted through Monday, July 18th. If you would like to participate, please sign up using this link: https://forms.gle/4f1u9gjA33P9Ju1eA.
Karin Johnson (US Census Bureau at Texas A&M University), Mentorship Coordinator, will pair graduate students and junior faculty with a scholar more advanced in their careers. Pairs will be matched based on their desired areas of mentorship, then by substantive research interests. Mentorships groups will consist of at least one mentor and one or more mentees. You will be notified of your pairing by Friday, July 22nd.
Paired mentors and mentees will personally schedule to meet by video call, in-person at the ASA annual meeting, or via whatever means preferred.
Questions? Email Karin Johnson at karin.johnson@census.gov

NEW PUBLICATIONS

New Books
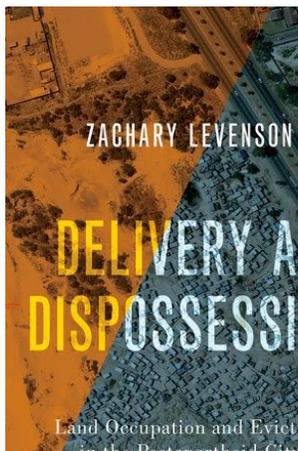
Levenson, Zachary. 2022. *Delivery as Dispossession: Land Occupation and Eviction in the Post-Apartheid City*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

In post-apartheid South Africa, nearly a fifth of the urban population lives in shacks. Unable to wait any longer for government housing, people occupy land, typically seeking to fly under the state's radar. Yet in most cases, occupiers wind up in dialogue with the state. In *Delivery as Dispossession*, Zachary Levenson follows this journey from avoidance to incorporation, explaining how the post-apartheid Constitution shifts squatters' struggles onto the judicial register. Providing a comparative ethnographic account of two land occupations in Cape Town and highlighting occupiers' struggles, Levenson further demonstrates why it is that housing officials seek the eviction of all new occupations: they view these unsanctioned settlements as a threat to the order they believe is required for delivery. Yet in evicting occupiers, he argues, they reproduce the problem anew, with subsequent rounds of land occupation as the inevitable consequence. Offering a unique framework for thinking about local states, this book proposes a novel theory of the state that will change the way ethnographers think about politics.
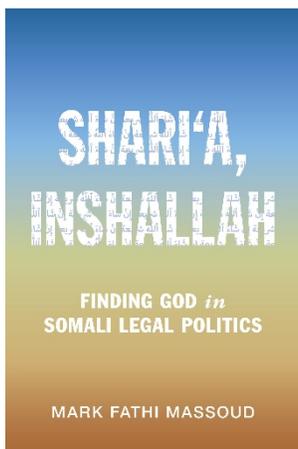
Massoud, Mark Fathi. 2021. *Shari'a, Inshallah: Finding God in Somali Legal Politics*. Cambridge University Press. https://www.cambridge.org/inshallah

Western analysts have long denigrated Islamic states as antagonistic, even antithetical, to the rule of law. Mark Fathi Massoud tells a different story: for nearly 150 years, the Somali people have embraced shari'a, commonly translated as Islamic law, in the struggle for national identity and human rights. Lawyers, community leaders, and activists throughout the Horn of Africa have invoked God to oppose colonialism, resist dictators, expel warlords, and to fight for gender equality - all critical steps on the path to the rule of law. Shari'a, Inshallah traces the most dramatic moments of legal change, political collapse, and reconstruction in Somalia and Somaliland. Massoud upends the conventional account of secular legal progress and demonstrates instead how faith in a higher power guides people toward the rule of law.
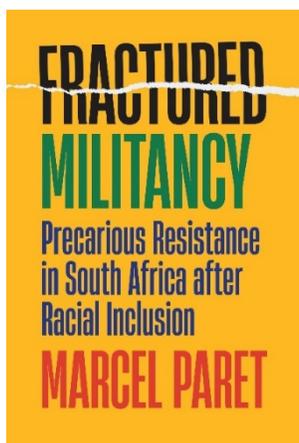
Paret, Marcel. 2022. *Fractured Militancy: Precarious Resistance in South Africa after Racial Inclusion.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork and interviews with activists, *Fractured Militancy* tells the story of postapartheid South Africa from the perspective of Johannesburg's impoverished urban Black neighborhoods. Nearly three decades after South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy, widespread protests and xenophobic attacks suggest that not all is well in the once-celebrated "rainbow nation." Marcel Paret traces rising protests back to the process of democratization and racial inclusion. This process dangled the possibility of change but preserved racial inequality and economic insecurity, prompting residents to use militant protests to express their deep sense of betrayal and to demand recognition and community development. Underscoring remarkable parallels to movements such as Black Lives Matter in the United States, this account attests to an ongoing struggle for Black liberation in the wake of formal racial inclusion. Rather than unified resistance, however, class struggles within the process of racial inclusion produced a fractured militancy. Revealing the complicated truth behind the celebrated "success" of South African democratization, Paret uncovers a society divided by wealth, urban geography, nationality, employment, and political views. *Fractured Militancy* warns of the threat that capitalism and elite class struggles present to social movements and racial justice everywhere.

Radhakrishnan, Smitha. 2022. *Making Women Pay: Microfinance in Urban India.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

In the past two decades, India's commercial microfinance industry has come to saturate the everyday lives of women in the name of state-led efforts to promote financial inclusion and women's empowerment. Despite this favorable language, however, Making Women Pay shows that although microfinance in India may appear to help women borrowers, the industry instead extracts the maximum value from its customers through exploitative relationships that benefit especially class-privileged men. Through ethnography, interviews, and historical analysis, Radhakrishnan demonstrates how the unpaid and underpaid labor of marginalized women borrowers ensures both profitability and symbolic legitimacy for microfinance institutions, their employees, and their leaders. In doing so, she centralizes gender in the study of microfinance, reveals why most microfinance programs target women, and explores the exploitative implications of this targeting.
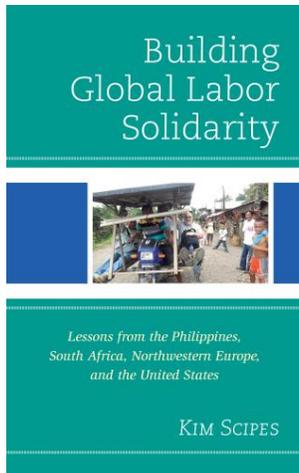
Scipes, Kim. 2021. *Building Global Labor Solidarity: Lessons from the Philippines, South Africa, Northwestern Europe, and the United States.* Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Efforts to build bottom-up global labor solidarity began in the late 1970s and continue today, having greater social impact than ever before. In Building Global Labor Solidarity: Lessons from the Philippines, South Africa, Northwestern Europe, and the United States Kim Scipes—who worked as a union printer in 1984 and has remained an active participant in, researcher about, and writer chronicling the efforts to build global labor solidarity ever since—compiles several articles about these efforts. Grounded in his research on the KMU Labor Center of the Philippines, Scipes joins first-hand accounts from the field with analyses and theoretical propositions to suggest that much can be learned from past efforts which, though previously ignored, have increasing relevance today. Joined with earlier works on the KMU, AFL-CIO foreign policy, and efforts to develop global labor solidarity in a time of accelerating globalization, the essays in this volume further develop contemporary understandings of this emerging global phenomenon.
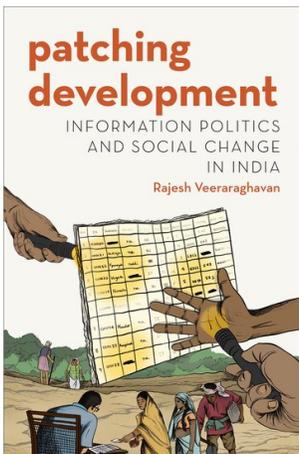
Veeraraghavan, Rajesh. 2021. *Patching Development: Information Politics and Social Change in India.* Oxford University Press.

How can development programs deliver benefits to marginalized citizens in ways that expand their rights and freedoms? Political will and good policy design are critical but often insufficient due to resistance from entrenched local power systems. The book is an ethnography of one of the largest development programs in the world, the Indian National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(NREGA), and examines in detail NREGA's implementation in the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It finds that the local system of power is extremely difficult to transform, not because of inertia, but because of coercive counter strategy from actors at the last mile and their ability to exploit information asymmetries. Upper-level NREGA bureaucrats in Andhra Pradesh do not possess the capacity to change the power axis through direct confrontation with local elites, but instead have relied on a continuous series of responses that react to local implementation and information, a process of patching development. Patching development is a top-down, fine-grained, iterative socio-technical process that makes local information about implementation visible through technology and enlists participation from marginalized citizens through social audits. These processes are neither neat nor orderly and have led to a contentious sphere where the exercise of power over documents, institutions and technology is intricate, fluid and highly situated. The book throws new light on the challenges and benefits of using information and technology in novel ways to implement development programs. While focused on one Indian state, the implications for increasing citizen participation and government transparency have global relevance.

New Articles

Bradlow, Fehr, Tracy. "Nepal's Post-Earthquake Development SurgeThe Unintended Local Impacts of Reconstruction" *Sociology of Development,* 1-22 (2022). Url: https://online.ucpress.edu/socdev/article-abstract/doi/10.1525/sod.2021.0021/120268/Nepal-s-Post-Earthquake-Development-SurgeThe?redirectedFrom=fulltext

Mangla, Akshay. "Social conflict on the front lines of reform: Institutional activism and girls' education in rural India" *Public Administration and Development* 42 (1):95-105 (2022).

Scipes, Kim. "The Only Commonality is Uncommonality: Progressive Protest from Below since the Mid-1980s" *Class, Race and Corporate Power* 10 (1), (2021). Url: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/classracecorporatepower/vol10/iss1/4.

Public Sociology

Mueller, Jason C. "Book Review: The End of the End of History: Politics in the Twenty-First Century by Alex Hochuli, George Hoare and Philip Cunliffe", *Critical Sociology* 48(1): 175-178 (2022).

Mueller, Jason C. "OK Boomer! Generational Discourse Without Class Analysis?" This is Revolution Podcast, Episode 267 (April 5 2022). Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgriB1wZr_s.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

SECTION COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

ASA Sociology of Development Page:
http://www.asanet.org/sections/development.cfm

Sociology of Development Website:
http://sociologyofdevelopment.com/

Sociology of Development Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/ASA-Sociology-of-Development-Section-160936710615717/

Sociology of Development Listserv: SOCDEV
DEVELOPMENT-ANNOUNCE@LISTSERV.ASANET.ORG

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