

SECTORS

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Enrique Pumar

By the time you read my note, your semester will be winding down and you will be preparing to celebrate the end of another calendar year. This is also the time you consider whether to renew your membership in the ASA section. I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to consider supporting us.

Our Sociology of Development section ranks among the most inexpensive in the ASA. We have chosen to do more with less rather than increase our fees. Last summer, for instance, we sponsored our virtual pre-conference at no cost and welcomed everyone regardless of location or if they were members of our association. This year we continue to promote diverse views from our field with three free webinars. The first, entitled Encounters of Feminism with Authoritarianism, took place last November 4 and featured three insightful speakers, two from the global south. We hope to schedule our second virtual webinar around late January and early February to examine the complex intersections between climate change, the environment and development policies. We are also preparing a third meeting for the spring.

I am happy to report that our work continues to support our mission's critical commitment to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. Considering the global scope of our work, this effort is essential, albeit sometimes a bit challenging. At the last ASA annual meeting in Los Angeles, we sponsored a panel to examine diverse perspectives on social justice and equity and for next year's meeting, we featured one about the global south in support of more inclusiveness. We are also attentive to diversity and inclusion when it comes to recruiting more representative members of the council and various committees and in our attempt to decentralize governing processes. We hope that through our mentoring program, we continue to support all our members but more especially first-generation and minoritized scholars.

Of course, to run our programming it takes a lot of collaboration and dedication from a very generous group of colleagues. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed and continues to dedicate time to support the success of our section. Our community is very fortunate to have such a level of generosity.

Finally, let me thank you all. We appreciate your continuing involvement in our various awards committees, activities, and panel discussions. We encourage you to voice your concerns, share your insights, and engage with our community. We hope to count on your support for many more years to come.

Warm regards,
Enrique S. Pumar

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INTRODUCING NEW SECTION COUNCIL MEMBERS

In August 2022, the Sociology of Development section welcomed four new council members – Erin McDonnell (Chair), Jennifer Givens, Alexandre White (Council Members), and Perdana Roswaldy (Student Council Member). Here is a summary of their online profiles:



Erin Metz McDonnell (Chair-elect)

Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame

Erin Metz McDonnell's research cuts across Organizational, Political, Cultural, and Economic Sociology. Her work focuses on the reciprocal relationship between culture and social organization, from consumer groups to state administrative capacity. Her award-winning work has been published in the *American Sociological Review*, the *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Comparative Political Studies*. Her book project *Patchwork Leviathan* analyzes the emergence and functioning of niches of organizational excellence within otherwise-weak state administrations, combining qualitative research

on four niches within the contemporary Ghanaian state with comparative historical analyses of state organizations in China, Brazil, Kenya, and Nigeria. (Full Profile at <https://sociology.nd.edu/people/erin-mcdonnell/>).



Jennifer Givens (Council Member)

Associate Professor of Sociology at Utah State University

Jennifer Givens is an environmental and comparative international sociologist. Broadly, she studies coupled human and natural systems. Her research examines environmental and social sustainability across nation-states, and she studies how these relationships change over time. In some of her research, she investigates variation in countries' carbon intensity of well-being, which is a way to measure a country's progress toward simultaneous environmental and social sustainability by asking how carbon intensely nation-states produce well-being for citizens. This

research explores the effects of unequal global integration and militarization, addresses issues of inequality, human well-being, sustainability, and energy use, and explores the connections between development and drivers of climate change. In other research, she explores various forms of environmental concern and action and their causes and consequences, both across and within nations. She is also working on interdisciplinary research on resilience and sustainability in food, energy, and water systems. Her research is quantitative, and she employs both longitudinal and multilevel modeling techniques. (Full Profile at <https://chass.usu.edu/sociology/directory/jennifer-givens>) .



Alexandre White (Council Member)

Assistant Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University

Alexandre White joined the Johns Hopkins Faculty in 2019 after completing a Provost's Post-Doctoral Fellowship there. He earned his B.A. in Black Studies from Amherst College, MSc. in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science and his PhD in Sociology from Boston University. He is also jointly affiliated with the Department of the History of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the School of Medicine and an Associate Director for the Center for Medical Humanities and Social Medicine. His work examines the social effects of infectious epidemic outbreaks in both historical and contemporary settings as well as the global mechanisms that

produce responses to outbreak. (Full Profile at <https://soc.jhu.edu/directory/alexandre-white/>)



Perdana "Pepe" Roswaly (Student Council Member)

PhD Candidate, Northwestern University

I am a PhD candidate in Sociology & an Arryman Scholar at the Equality Development & Globalization Studies, Northwestern University. After getting my BA in Russian language and Soviet art politics, I took a detour to land conflicts and the plantation economy in Southeast Asia. My interest in land politics and one's aspiration for "development" or "growth" is sparked by the great Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy, whose short story "How Many Land Does a Man Need?" (Много ли человеку земли нужно?) radically reshaped my thoughts about landed property. Ever since, I set my intellectual and academic journey to answer "Why do so many postcolonial, developing, countries struggle to decrease, or transition out of, their dependence on

extractive economies?" Rather than focusing on industrial policies and trajectories commonly found in studies of development states, I believe the answer lies at the post World War II foreign rural development aids and loans, the state's speculative practice in land market, and resource mapping for rural development plans and extractive sectors. I also pour my interest in plantation economies in artistic venues i.e., zines and films. Recently, my artist collective (Robin Hartanto Honggare & Mahardika Yudha) and I premiered our experimental documentary movie, *Tropic Fever* (2022) that explores how the Dutch colonial plantation systems laid the environmental, spatial, racial, and affective foundation for Indonesia's on-going violence and impoverishment in plantations. The movie is shortlisted for the Golden Dove Prize at the 65th International Leipzig Festival for Documentary & Animated Film.

FALL 2022 SYMPOSIUM ON DECOLONIZATION & DEVELOPMENT

Editorial Introduction

The literary critic Gayatri Spivak once suggested that “concepts of development are needed here and now as methodological practical necessities, not as governing ideas” (Spivak 2017: 6). The suggestion appears salient if one follows the language of protest in different parts of the world, where political and social demands often speak of the “need for development.” During summer this year, protestors in Sri Lanka claimed that policy failures to tackle inflation, external debt, corruption, and economic inequality were responsible for stalling their country’s development. Such a discourse played a key role in delegitimizing the government of Gotabaya Rajapaksa. In Colombia, the election of Gustavo Petro as the country’s first avowedly leftist president came at the heels of a series of protests since 2021 demanding a democratic pledge for development. Petro’s platform highlights how wide a net such “need for development” casts – generate employment by developing national industry, end the war on drugs and redistribute resources towards social programs and healthcare, pursue women’s rights, mitigate ecological devastation – the developmental mandate continues.

Over the long twentieth century, “development” went from signifying an instrument of colonial governance to an idiom of decolonization, and eventually, neoliberal globalization. Its political invocations continue to be tied to both demands from below and top-down pressures. Labor and working-class movements aspiring for better living standards, bottom-up assertions of the rights of women and racialized minorities, or of those seeking restitution and reparation for racial capitalism’s socio-cultural, economic, and ecological consequences have all had a stake in deploying such need for development in their political lexicon. So too has the administration of international aid, credit, and expertise working through state and non-state apparatuses of development policymaking, and largely dominated by institutions and interests in the global North. The colloquial and conflicted meanings of the “need for development” therefore appears to stem from different registers of analysis, reflection, and action. Yet, as the discursive repertoire of recent protests suggests, “development” connects pasts and futures within the political field and impart, however provisionally, a certain coherence to ideas of both deprivation and human betterment.

How might sociologists consider development as a political-historical concept? What are the implications of such consideration for analyses of exclusion and affirmation along the lines of class, race, and gender? What do histories of decolonization, empire, and democratic movements tell us about development practice and policymaking? How do discourses of protest and decolonial praxis in the global North, from anti-austerity movements to those demanding racial and environmental justice, speak of the “need for development”? In response, Jordanna Matlon’s contribution to our fall symposium offers a thought-provoking synthesis. Emphasizing the exclusionary and racialized legacies of modernity and capitalist progress, Matlon calls on sociologists of development to rethink their premises based on solidarity with various forms of post- and decolonial struggles for social and environmental justice.

Sectors Co-editors
Mushahid Hussain & Grace Wang

Storm from Paradise

Jordanna Matlon
American University, Washington D.C.

This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing in from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such a violence that the angel can no longer close them. The storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.

–Walter Benjamin, Theses on the Philosophy of History

Philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point, however, is to change it.

–Karl Marx, Theses on Feuerbach

Development, as it implies an act of becoming rather than being, is aspirational, a social good to desire even while critiquing processes of underdevelopment and the coloniality of the state of being “developed.” It is thus one thing to observe that certain people or places experience deprivation according to certain criteria, but quite another to assert historical trajectories of progress or to prescribe fixes to arrive there. The latter, conceptualized within dominant paradigms as development-in-action, are entangled with the civilizing missions of empire, with established narratives of problem and remedy whereby the problem stubbornly resides endogenously, reducing a people to a problem in perpetual need of remedy. Development as such is a moving target of always becoming but never being, one that risks obscuring relations of power, the historical and ongoing relationality of gain and loss. By contrast, analyses like Walter Rodney’s *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Timothy Mitchell’s *Rule of Experts*, or Mike Davis’s *Late Victorian Holocausts* have shown in devastating detail how in the name of development empire produced objective measures of underdevelopment as, quoting Benjamin, “a storm blowing in from paradise.” And yet – the point of becoming is to be. Development, then, presents a paradox for critical praxis: for if, as Marx said, the point is to change the world, we need only consider his positing of the colonized and enslaved as primitive accumulation, objects that must be violently made into subjects of history, whose sacrifice for history’s sake was both the wastage of their bodies and their choice in the matter, to understand how so much of what is wrong with the world today has been the very product of those ignoble efforts.

Nowhere is this critique better illuminated than through the lens of the Anthropocene, a description of our human-dominated geological epoch whose beginnings are marked by the escalating carbon dioxide and methane emissions of the industrial revolution (Crutzen and Stoermer 2000). The climate change it has unleashed is a peril both existential and epistemological: as it threatens our species’ existence, it also upends the thesis for a growth-centric development underpinned by extraction and commodification in which history’s end is a world filled with happy worker-consumers. The scientific fact of ecological devastation poses an unprecedented challenge to the principles of development in the world capitalist economy, a man-conquers-nature vision of progress that Eurocentric paradigms, dominant and critical, envisioned as the necessary step toward collective well-being.

We may consider Benjamin’s “pile of debris” to be those rendered surplus to the telos of development, the invention of racialized otherness serving the alibi for dehumanization. Therefore, Françoise Vergès (2017) renames the Anthropocene the “Racial Capitalocene” and begins not from development-as-industry but rather “the era of Western ‘discoveries,’ of the first colonial empires, of genocides, of the slave trade and slavery, [of] the modern world [which] mobilized the work of commodified human beings and unmodified extra-human nature in order to advance labor productivity within commodity production.” The premise for development’s civilizational promise was, in other words, a racial process of accumulation for some by and through the commodification of others; this process spans imperial conquest to the post-

work regimes and climate catastrophes of late capitalism. Just as the creature comforts of advanced civilization depended on accumulated surplus, the production of race was itself the production of “surplus – a kind of life that can be wasted and spent without limit” (Mbembe 2017, 34, emphasis in original). In short, the promise and premise of development constituted entitled subjects, those who “made” history, even while producing its others, objects relegated to life-as-surplus – having perished from the manufactured famines and wars of progress, these were the uncounted and uncountable, collateral damage to the relentless march of history. The Anthropocene, the constitution of life-as-surplus was, in other words, a racial project of dispossession and ultimately disposability. From the vantage point of the colonized, racialized, and disposed, from the ghosts and angels of history, progress is “one single catastrophe.”

To be surplus is to come from a people who have already endured the end of the world. The challenge for a critical development praxis, particularly at this ecological moment of proliferating “premature death” (c.f. Gilmore 2007), is to illuminate the interdependent socioeconomic and socioecological hierarchies that have long sustained the co-constituting exclusive promise and extractive premise of development. In solidarity with those enduring postcolonial and decolonial struggles to restore the full humanity of racialized others, it is a praxis of thinking, writing, and acting from the “other side of the veil” (Du Bois 1903).

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SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Book Award

2022: Natasha Iskander, New York University, *Does Skill Make Us Human?* Princeton University Press. 2021.

2022 Honorable Mention: Rajesh Veeraraghavan, Georgetown University, *Patching Development: Information Politics and Social Change in India.* Oxford University Press. 2021.

Faculty Article Award

2022: Michael Goldman, University of Minnesota, and Devika Narayan, Oxford University, “Through the Optics of Finance: Speculative Urbanism and the Transformation of Markets.” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 45(2): 209-231. 2021.

2022 Honorable Mention: Andy Chang, Singapore Management University, “Selling a Resume and Buying a Job: Stratification of Gender and Occupation by States and Brokers in International Migration from Indonesia.” *Social Problems*, Vol. 68(4): 903-924. 2021.

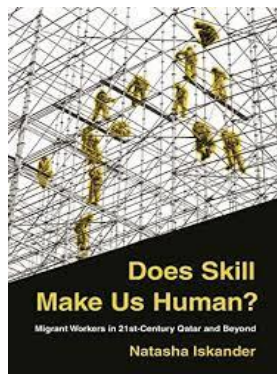
2022 Honorable Mention: Poulami Roychowdhury, McGill University, “Incorporation: Governing Gendered Violence in a State of Disempowerment.” *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 126(4): 852-888. 2021.

Graduate Student Paper Award

2022: Joel Salvador Herrera and Cesar B. Martinez-Alvarez, UCLA, “Diversifying violence: Mining, Export-Agriculture, and Criminal Governance in Mexico.”

2022 Honorable Mention: Kai Feng, University of Pennsylvania, “Unequal Duties and Unequal Retirement: Decomposing the Women’s Labor Force Decline in Post-Reform China.”

Interview with Faculty Award Winners



Book Award: Natasha Iskander, *Does Skill Make Us Human?* Princeton University Press. 2021.

Congratulations on winning the 2022 Book Award! How did you get started on this project?

I had been studying migration for a long time, in many places around the world, and I became increasingly frustrated with debates about migration which depicted migrants as either heroes or villains, in both social and economic terms. Those portrayals were intractable and fed into increasingly xenophobic political trends and the securitization of borders around in the world, but especially in the US and

Europe. Around the same time, Qatar, somewhat improbably, won the hosting rights for the 2022 World Cup for soccer, and almost immediately began to build stadia and infrastructure for the games, channeling hundreds of billions of dollars to reinvent itself as a global destination for sports and culture. To do so, Qatar would bring in close to two million workers from all around the world, and it would make itself into the photonegative of the typical migration story. In most settings, immigrants or migrants are only a small fraction of the population and labor force. In Qatar, almost ninety-five percent of the labor force is migrant. Qatari nationals make up only a very small minority of the country's workers, and most work in the public sector.

Qatar offered an opportunity to tease out whether the dynamics we associate with migration are in fact a product of migration – people arriving from somewhere else – or whether they reflect migrants' minority status and the political and economic marginalization associated with – or rather, imposed on – that status. I focused on construction because the industry is virtually 100% foreign – workers, companies, and materials from all over the globe. And the migrant workers who traveled to Qatar to build the structures for the World Cup were building some of the most technically advanced and aesthetically ambitious buildings and infrastructure in the world. They inspired me.

What are the wider implications of your project for the sociology of development?

My engagement with the experiences of migrant workers in Qatar led me to explore the politics of skill – or rather the notion of skill as a political construction that has only a tangential relationship to actual ability. In Qatar, the portrayal of migrant workers as unskilled – irrespective of their actual ability – drove their marginalization and dehumanization. Workers were exploited even as they completed some of the technically advanced construction because they were described as unskilled. Based on my observations, I came to the main argument of my book: although we treat skill as a technical measure of competence, it is instead deeply political. The way we use it shapes absolutely all aspects of social and economic life. Skill – and especially the distinction between skilled and unskilled – acts as a social marker of difference, like race and gender and class, and that it's deeply embedded in and constitutive of social power structures. Skill categories do not indicate competence; instead, they indicate who will be given the full rights of political personhood and who will be denied them. This take on skill may sit uneasily with many – perhaps most – standard theories of development. Skill has been defined as crucial for economic growth because of its implications for the productivity of the workforce and for the organization of industry. It's also been viewed as a critical factor to the well-being of individuals in an economy, essential to their capacity for self-development, for earning growth, and for social standing and upward mobility. These core views of skill are compelling because they make an implicit claim about being egalitarian – about the value of skill not being tied to the social value of persons.

To be sure, many scholars have compellingly shown that our measurements of skill and our view of what constitutes competence are biased, shaped by social power structures (why is care work gendered as female, and so often construed as unskilled, for example?). But my argument is not about how we get assessments of skill wrong. It is about how the use of skill as a political concept helps obscure the kinds of disenfranchisement, exploitation, and marginalization that development can produce. My hope is that this book reminds us not to take skill literally, and that it encourages us to look at the political work that skill is doing, and to examine the ways in which skill categories justify social divides and the hardening of inequality.

Faculty Article Award: Michael Goldman and Devika Narayan, “Through the Optics of Finance: Speculative Urbanism and the Transformation of Markets.” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 45(2): 209-231. 2021.

Congratulations to both of you! How did you get started on this paper?

I (Michael) had been studying the precarious transformation of the small city of Bangalore/Bengaluru into a global city over the past decade, a process that we call ‘speculative urbanism’, and Devika was finishing up her dissertation research on India’s IT firms, which despite helping to create the hugely profitable global cloud computing platform, were experiencing engineer layoffs and firm volatility. In both urban real estate and IT sectors, we found exceedingly high profits coupled with volatility and bankruptcy – how and why? Together, we dug in deep to understand the financial strategies of private equity as their capital freely flowed in and out of different sectors of the Indian urban economy, before and after the 2008 financial crisis. We developed an approach that overcame the gap between what we found and what the literature argued, by ‘following the financial strategy’, that did not focus solely on the project, the city, or the financial tool, but rather what finance accomplished by moving strategically across these fixed spaces. As the capital flowed in and out of projects globally, the effects could no longer be attributed to an ‘Indian’ or an ‘urban’ problem. With similar trends of volatility created in Spain, the U.S., and beyond, we had to rethink our understanding of infrastructure projects and their logics. Constituted by transnational processes and conceived of in practice, these financial strategies led us to new conceptualizations of the ideas of development growth and failure.

What are the wider implications of your project for the sociology of development?

One main lesson for development sociology falls within the nexus of method and theory: the idea that if we switch our lens of inquiry from the fixed entity of the project, the city, the country to the optics of finance, we can see much more clearly how finance capital uses that fixity to its advantage, deploying actions of arbitrage that transpire across projects and sites that go untraced by most regulators and the business press. Investors from NYC, Shanghai, and Bengaluru explained how they worked the system – no, actually how they created the system -- in which they were able to freely work. They taught us that the 2008 crisis was a great inventive opportunity for them. It reminded us of the importance of ‘studying up’ – following these actors and their capital wherever they traveled -- listening to what elite actors hope to achieve, how they navigate around national and local obstacles, and how they generate a world of volatility that they can then profit from. It was an eye-opening and fun research experience.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

From Southern California to South Africa – Research Experiences in the Global South

Grace Wang
Stellenbosch University

I graduated with my PhD from Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California in May 2021 as the Wallis Annenberg Chair Fellow in Communication, Technology and Society. My doctoral dissertation examines how Shenzhen, China's leading global innovation hub, has evolved into China's Silicon Valley from a fishing village in 40 years. I analyzed how Shenzhen incubated global technology companies since the Open and Reform Policy in China back in 1979, such as Tencent, the Internet giant; Huawei, the largest telecommunications company in the world; DJI, the cutting-edge drone company; Ping An, a global fin-tech and insurance company and BYD, one of the first electric vehicle and battery manufacturing companies in China. While I was examining these technology companies as case studies, I discovered strong ties between China and Africa in terms of trade, investment, and Chinese technology companies' expansion. Such ties in various formats transcended the conventional understanding of the state-led "China's One Belt and One Road Initiative." It is more than the state. China's influence in Africa has become multidimensional with an increasing private corporate presence.

To further understand and reveal this complex relationship, I went to South Africa to continue my research with a grant from the South African National Research Foundation upon my doctoral graduation. Both China and South Africa belong to BRICS, and Cape Town formed a sister city relationship with Shenzhen in 2015. First-hand interviews and empirical research play a fundamental role in my understanding of social, economic, and cultural transformations in our fast-changing geopolitical world. In this essay, I share what I learned as a US-trained young scholar in South Africa, and reflect on higher-education system differences, public scholarship, and their relevance for young scholars.

I was able to build a scholarly network with African-descent scholars who share my research interests and passion about the global south. Being in the field to conduct empirical research for a long period demonstrated a level of academic dedication and seriousness, which was greatly appreciated by local experts and scholars. Thus, many African scholars extended their willingness to help with my research on China-Africa-US relations, technology, development, and entrepreneurship & innovation. It is worth pointing out that many new generation African scholars are educated in the United Kingdom, the United States, or other foreign countries. They embrace a global mindset and actively seek international collaborations. As a Chinese native, I completed my higher education mostly in the United States before I went to South Africa. My personal identity and academic background intrigued many people (both academics and non-academics) which made it possible for me to garner resources and establish relationships with people from diverse ethnic and national backgrounds. Taking advantages of personal strength in a strange and new environment can make a critical difference. As a result, I was put in touch with many local experts on my research topics in South Africa and was able to meet the founder and managing director of the China-Global South Project (at that time, it was called the China – Africa Project), one of the few international media outlets focused on reporting everything on China and Chinese initiatives in the global south.

After my meeting with the China – Global South Project editors, I became a freelancer for their media platform due to our mutual interests in independent journalism and public scholarship. Most of their subscribers are global policymakers, diplomats, university professors as well as graduate students in

international relations, political science, and relevant social science disciplines with professional and scholarly interests in Africa, Latin America and other countries and regions in the global south. Writing for non-academic audiences requires me to be concise and jargon-free while providing insightful analysis and original thoughts on typical issues. This ongoing practice has taught me how to turn academic knowledge into useful and accessible information for a wider public.

Public scholarship is not a new concept, and neither is it only for established professors and scholars with prolific public intellectual portfolios on news and social media outlets. I was told by both academics and non-academics that they appreciate young scholars' insights, particularly from those who are in the field, because their information and materials are new and fresh. Their candid sharing with me boosted my confidence in increasing the social impact of my academic research through public scholarship at an early stage of my career. I learnt that first-hand information and fresh perspectives are desired and encouraged, and that communicating them through public scholarship had the added advantages of reaching wider audiences and a short review period.

Conducting academic research and fieldwork in Africa as a young researcher, I found it challenging to navigate differences in higher education systems. In the United States, senior scholars and professors do not treat postdoctoral graduates as students. Both parties have a mutual understanding that the postdoctoral fellowship is a transitional training stage for early career scholars. Postdoctoral graduates enjoy health insurance, dental insurance, and salary. Usually, mentors who have postdoctoral graduates help with their professional development and expand their academic networks. However, in South Africa, postdoctoral graduates are still considered students and not employees in the university system because of its tax structure. Postdoctoral graduates also do not pay taxes as university employees. This difference between South Africa and the United States might be a cause for dissatisfaction among international postdoctoral graduates, since young researchers need motivation and a professional identity to advance their academic careers. More importantly, international postdoctoral graduates in fields like development sociology may leave Africa after their fellowship to work somewhere else. They could work at universities, or pursue careers at international organizations such as the United Nations, Asian Development Bank, etc. Their academic identity plays a significant role in this regard. My experience suggests that South African and other African higher education institutions need to reconsider this structure and improve their academic capacity to attract early career international scholars for knowledge exchange. Moreover, it is important for African educational institutions to align their professional standards and structures with the international community, so that young international researchers can pursue careers in South Africa and other African countries at large.

To sum up some key lessons from my South Africa research and fieldwork as a postdoctoral research fellow, the first and foremost is academic sincerity. As a young researcher with no prestigious title, the best way to obtain help from local experts and scholars is to show them that you are serious about your research and knowledgeable about it. People tend to invest time in you once you show them that they can trust you with their information and resources (of course it does not apply to everyone). Second, utilizing your personal strength in terms of background and education history. For instance, I received more help from people who were trained in the United States and in the United Kingdom because we share similar education experiences, thus, it is easier for us to connect and establish a relationship. Third, setting reasonable expectations and build yourself a working comfort zone by understanding your host country's historical, social, and cultural histories. For instance, many countries in Africa including South Africa have a long colonial history with long-lasting effect till now though transformation is an agenda within South Africa's higher education system by promoting scholars who are black or people of color. It is not surprising to encounter people who hold onto outdated world views within that system. Therefore, an international postdoctoral research fellow (particularly minority woman) needs to navigate and learn how to associate with likeminded local experts and scholars. Like I mentioned above, new generation scholars in South Africa who were trained overseas are more likely to stay attuned to international research trends and are more open to seek collaborations with young international scholars. Last, always stay in touch with your previous support system including your former mentors, professors, peers, and colleagues even when you are in a different country or even on a new continent. In my case, I went to South Africa during Covid and school was shut down so that I had no social life. I stayed and worked alone for the rest of 2021 because of Covid. My peers in the United States had zoom

catchup meetings with me occasionally which eased my loneliness and fear. I also received emails from my former mentor and professor asking after my safety. Those were all touching moments which reminded me of the importance of a social support system (even remotely).

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 7](#) includes the following briefs:

“The Firm Handshake: Training Begins Early in the Body language of Privilege” by Peter Francis Harvey (Harvard University).

“Progressive School Spending is Efficient” by Emily Rauscher (Brown University) and Yifan Shen (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

“Sex for Pregnancy as a Chore: Policy Recommendations that Go Beyond a Diagnosis of Infertility” by Eliza Brown (UC-Berkeley).

“The President’s Party and Infant Health in the United States” by Florencia Torche (Stanford University) and Tamkinat Rauf (Stanford University).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Winter 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

Vol. 8 No. 4, Winter 2022, <https://online.ucpress.edu/socdev/issue/8/4>

“Just Push It Through”: How Emotions Shape Solidarity for Canadian Development Workers

Sophia Boutilier

(pp. 355–378) <https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2021.0039>

Insider–Outsider Politics and Support for Universal Health Coverage in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Evidence from Afrobarometer Surveys

Ashley M. Fox, Megan Reynolds

(pp. 379–418) <https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2021.0028>

Critical Mass and Critical Representation: Economic Transition, Workplace Cultures, and Women CEOs in China

Caroline Virginia Reilly, Junmin Wang

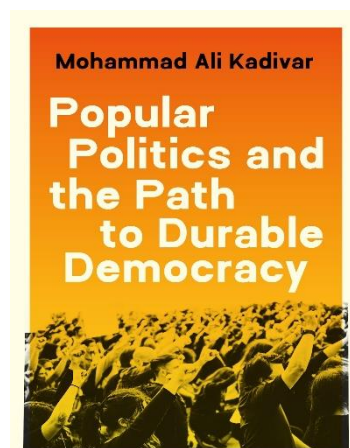
(pp. 419–449) <https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2020.0045>

¿Agua para todos? Differences in Access to Clean Water and a Bathroom at Home by Ethno-Racial Characteristics in Contemporary Peru

Cristian L. Paredes, Kyle Woolley

(pp. 450–484) <https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2021.0044>

New Books

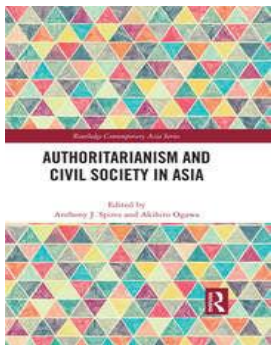


Mohammad Ali Kadivar. 2022. *Popular Politics and the Path to Durable Democracy*. Princeton University Press.

When protests swept through the Middle East at the height of the Arab Spring, the world appeared to be on the verge of a wave of democratization. Yet with the failure of many of these uprisings, it has become clearer than ever that the path to democracy is strewn with obstacles. Mohammad Ali Kadivar examines the conditions leading to the success or failure of democratization, shedding vital new light on how prodemocracy mobilization affects the fate of new democracies.

Drawing on a wealth of new evidence, Kadivar shows how the longest episodes of prodemocracy protest give rise to the most durable new democracies. He analyzes more than one hundred democratic transitions in eighty countries between 1950 and 2010, showing how more robust

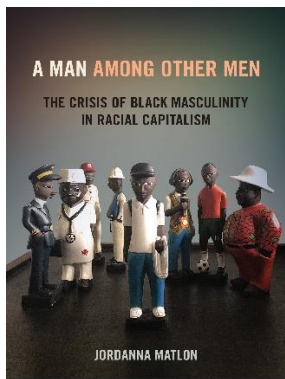
democracies emerge from lengthier periods of unarmed mobilization. Kadivar then analyzes five case studies—South Africa, Poland, Pakistan, Egypt, and Tunisia—to investigate the underlying mechanisms. He finds that organization building during the years of struggle develops the leadership needed for lasting democratization and strengthens civil society after dictatorship. *Popular Politics and the Path to Durable Democracy* challenges the prevailing wisdom in American foreign policy that democratization can be achieved through military or coercive interventions, revealing how lasting change arises from sustained, nonviolent grassroots mobilization.



Anthony Spires & Akihiro Ogawa (eds.). 2022. *Authoritarianism and Civil Society in Asia*. Routledge.

This book represents a pioneering interdisciplinary effort to analyze Asian civil society under authoritarianism, a regime type that is re-appearing or deepening after several decades of increased political liberalization. By organizing its approach into four main themes, this volume succinctly reveals the challenges facing civil society in authoritarian regimes, including: actions under political repression, transitions to democracy, uncivil society, political capture and legal control. It features in-depth analyses of a variety of Asian nations, from 'hard' authoritarian regimes, like China, to 'electoral' authoritarian regimes, like Cambodia, whilst also addressing countries

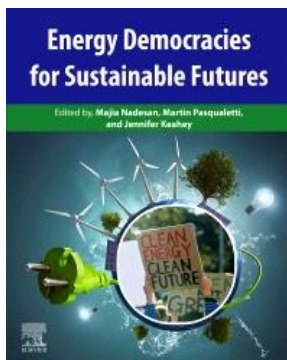
experiencing democratic regression, such as the Philippines. By highlighting concrete responses and initiatives taken by civil society under authoritarianism, it advances the intellectual mandate of redefining Asia as a dynamic and interconnected formation and, moreover, as a space for the production of new theoretical insight. Contributing to our understanding of the tensions, dynamics, and potentialities that animate state-society relations in authoritarian regimes, this will be essential reading for students and scholars of civil society, authoritarianism, and Asian politics more generally.



Jordanna Matlon. 2022. *A Man among Other Men: The Crisis of Black Masculinity in Racial Capitalism*. Cornell University Press.

A Man among Other Men examines competing constructions of modern manhood in the West African metropolis of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Engaging the histories, representational repertoires, and performative identities of men in Abidjan and across the Black Atlantic, Jordanna Matlon shows how French colonial legacies and media tropes of Blackness act as powerful axes, rooting masculine identity and value within labor, consumerism, and commodification. Through a broad chronological and transatlantic scope that culminates in a deep ethnography of the livelihoods and lifestyles of men in Abidjan's informal economy, Matlon demonstrates how men's subjectivities are formed in dialectical

tension by and through hegemonic ideologies of race and patriarchy. A Man among Other Men provides a theoretically innovative, historically grounded, and empirically rich account of Black masculinity that illuminates the sustained power of imaginaries even as capitalism affords a deficit of material opportunities. Revealed is a story of Black abjection set against the anticipation of male privilege, a story of the long crisis of Black masculinity in racial capitalism.



Majia Nadesan, Martin Pasqualetti & Jennifer Keahey (eds.). 2022. *Energy Democracies for Sustainable Futures*. Academic Press.

Energy Democracies for Sustainable Futures explores how our dominant carbon and nuclear energy assemblages shape conceptions of participation, risk, and in/securities, and how they might be reengineered to deliver justice and democratic participation in transitioning energy systems. Chapters assess the economies, geographies and politics of current and future energy landscapes, exposing how dominant assemblages (composed of technologies, strategies, knowledge and authorities) change our understanding of security and risk, and how they these shared understandings are often enacted uncritically in policy.

Contributors address integral relationships across the production and government of material and human energies and the opportunities for sustainable and democratic governance. In addition, the book explores how interest groups advance idealized energy futures and energy imaginaries. The work delves into the role that states, market organizations and civil society play in envisioned energy change. It assesses how risks and security are formulated in relation to economics, politics, ecology, and human health. It concludes by integrating the relationships between alternative energies and governance strategies, including issues of

centralization and decentralization, suggesting approaches to engineer democracy into decision-making about energy assemblages.

New Articles

Kadivar, Mohammad Ali (2022). “Revolution and Social Development in Iran”, *Sociology of Development*. 8(2): 213-237.

Raynolds, Laura T. (2022) “Can Certification Increase Trade Fairness and Worker Empowerment? Lessons from Fairtrade International Certified Plantations in Ecuador”, *International Sociology* 37 (6): 716-739.

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>

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<http://sociologyofdevelopment.com/>

Sociology of Development Facebook Page:

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

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